The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

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Lady Mounties fall to West Chester, 67-61

Taya-Reese Johnson
Secretary

Mansfield's women's basketball team fell to the West Chester Golden Rams, 67-61, in spite of a stellar double-digit comeback. The Golden Rams drew first blood, yet the Mountaineers only faced a six-point deficit at any point in the first quarter. Heading into the second quarter, trailing 17-14, the Mountaineers shot six for 20 from the field, one for eight from behind the arc, and one for two from the free throw line. The Golden Rams went eight for 20 from the field, blanked on three shots from behind the arc, and shot one for one from the free throw line. The scoring deficit built up against the Mountaineers, trailing as much as 14 points with two minutes left in the second quarter. At the end of the second quarter, the Golden Rams led the visiting Mountaineers by a score of 37-28. The Mounties shot five for 15 from the field, three for five from beyond the three-point line, and one for two from the free throw line. The Golden Rams shot eight for 15, four for eight from beyond the arc, and zero for two from the free throw line.

Coming back from the halftime break, the scoring trend continued as the Golden Rams scored first. A deficit of 11 points at one point in the third quarter was handled well by the Mountaineers. The visiting team only trailed by seven points heading into the fourth quarter, down 52-45. The Mounties shot three for 13 from the field, two for six from behind the arc, and nine for 10 from the free throw line. The Golden Rams shot five for 18 from the field, one for four from behind the three-point line, and four for five from the free throw line.

The Mountaineers flipped script in the fourth quarter as they drew first blood. About thirty seconds into the quarter, junior guard Amiyah Nguyen found junior forward Cydney Stanton for an early layup. With the game tied 61-61 with two minutes left in the game, the Golden Rams found a second wind to take the lead again. The matchup ended 67-61 in favor of the Golden Rams. In the final quarter, the Mountaineers shot six for 17 from the field, three for nine from beyond the arc, and one for two from the line. The victorious Golden Rams shot four for 13, blanked on two attempted three-pointers, and shot seven for eight from the free throw line.

Multiple Mountaineers contributed to the visiting team's effort against the Golden Rams. Sophomore guard Katie Sheeler played for 39 minutes, grabbed five rebounds, and recorded four assists. Sheeler led the Mounties with 21 points, making this her ninth 20-plus point game of the season. Junior guard Danae Ellzy also played for 39 minutes. Ellzy scored fifteen points, grabbed nine rebounds, and recorded four assists. Senior forward Sarah Hortin grabbed a team-leading 14 rebounds during her 26 minutes on the court. Hortin scored 10 points and recorded an assist. Graduate forward Kenedy Stroup played for 35 minutes during which she grabbed a rebound, recorded an assist, and scored five points. Stanton played for 30 minutes while Nguyen played for 10 minutes. Stanton scored five points, grabbed eight rebounds, and recorded an assist. Nguyen grabbed four rebounds, recorded three assists, and scored two points.

The Mountaineers are now 9-13 (5-11 PSAC East). Starting off with a series of away games, the Mountaineers have five regular season games remaining. Tipping off at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, the Mountaineers face the Bald Eagles of Lock Haven University. On Saturday, February 15, at 1:00 p.m., the Mountaineers will tip off against the Marauders of Millersville University. On Wednesday, February 19, with tipoff being at 5:30 p.m., the Mountaineers play the Shepherd University Rams. For their final home game of the season, the Mountaineers' game against the East Stroudsburg University Warriors will tip off at 1:00 p.m., preceded by Senior Day celebrations. The following Saturday, March 1, the Mountaineers' final game, tipping off at 1:00 p.m., will be against the Raiders of Shippensburg University.

Photos Courtesy of Emma Palmer

What's Up with the TikTok Ban?

Abigail LeValley
Staff Writer

On January 18, 2025, the TikTok app went down for users in the United States. The ban was put in place because the United States government feared that it caused national security concerns. The bill that passed was the Protecting Americans from Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act or PAFACA. The bill required the parent company of TikTok, ByteDance, to sell their company and subsidiaries to a United States company for their services to be available in the United States. To many people, this isn't new, and most people don't care since the app came back after twelve hours, but there's a lot more that comes with the ban than most people think.

First of all, it was impossible to download TikTok directly from an app store after the ban, but as of February 13. The short ban has also started controversies surrounding the app and even the United States government. This includes theories surrounding the ban, the "cool winter boots" trend, and people switching to a different app.

Starting small, some people have been theorizing that the ban was part of a strategy by Donald Trump to get a better reception by the public. I want to stress that this is a theory created by others, it hasn't been confirmed true, and I don't take a stance on this theory. People have been saying this mainly because Trump wasn't even in office when the ban took place, so how could he have been the one to "save" the app. People are rationalizing this by saying that it could be a way for him to get the younger generations on his side.

The "cool winter boots" trend is another result of the TikTok ban. The trend is a way for people to express how they feel about the government without facing censorship by the TikTok algorithm by using the term "cool winter boots." This could range from people discreetly talking about their concerns by hiding them with metaphors, to people writing, most commonly, "DENY. DEFEND. DEPOSE." on dollar bills with the title trend as a hashtag in the description. The trend has died down a bit, to the relief of bankers everywhere, but it is still possible to find one of these videos in your For You Page (FYP).

The trend is also connected to the trend of people switching to a different app instead of TikTok. RedNote is another Chinese app similar to TikTok that people in the United States flooded to after the TikTok blackout. Many have already fled back to TikTok, but some individuals are staying on RedNote as a response to the US government. People are staying on RedNote to spite the ban, even going as far to learn Mandarin to better understand the content on the app, since most of it is in Mandarin. There are also people sticking to the app fearing that the ban will return and their progress on TikTok will be deleted anyways.

To end on a more positive note, the TikTok ban also started trends where individuals would share "secrets" they had before they left the app, whether they were real secrets or not. One of the more popular examples of this was from the official Duolingo account. The video involved the company's mascot taking off his costume revealing who was inside. This mostly shocked people since the app came back only hours later and there was no actual point in doing the video. Overall, most of the TikTok ban craze has mellowed, but it's still important to give an overview to people who didn't understand what was going on or anyone who needed a reminder.

Federal Funding Freeze: The Future of Student Aid

Gabrielle Ives
Staff Writer

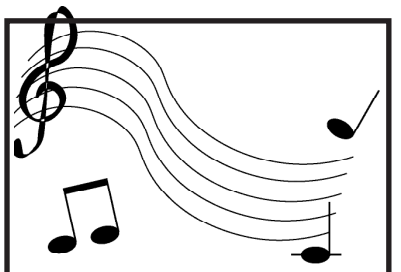
On Monday, January 27, the Office of Management and Budget released a document freezing what initially appeared to be all federal organizational and individual aid, such as Medicare, Food Stamps, and HEA programs like Pell Grants and Stafford loans in accordance with a series of President Trump's inaugural executive orders. Swiftly following the announcement, federal U.S. District Judge Loren L. AliKhan temporarily blocked the funding freeze on Tuesday, January 28, amidst widespread confusion among students, organizations, and states who depend on trillions in federal aid.

Hoping to clear up panic following the announcement, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt delivered her first press conference on the 28. "This is not a blanket pause on federal assistance and grant programs from the Trump Administration. Individual assistance [including] … Social Security benefits, Medicare benefits, Food Stamps, [and] welfare benefits … will not be impacted by this pause," Leavitt said. In clarifying the exigence behind the freeze, Leavitt said, "No more funding for illegal DEI programs … the "Green New Scam," … [and] wokeness across our federal bureaucracy." The Trump Administration's call for a federal funding freeze appears to be ideologically tied to recent demands for federal DEI rollbacks, with the ultimate aim being "ending illegal discrimination and restoring merit-based opportunity," as seen in President Trump's January 21 Executive Order by the same name.

By Tuesday night, CommonwealthUniversity President Bashar Hanna sent an email to Commonwealth students assuring them that the memo appears not to directly impact student aid as many had feared. The question of a federal freeze appeared to come to a close, at least temporarily, when the Office of Management and Budget rescinded the memorandum the following day.

So if Commonwealth students will continue receiving federal aid, do we have nothing to worry about? Not necessarily. Trump's federal funding freeze appears to maintain federal student aid such as Pell Grants, Stafford loans, and Title IV funding. However, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro filed a lawsuit on Wednesday, February 12, claiming that state agencies are currently unable to access at least $1.2 billion in Congressionally-appropriated funding and another $900 million is locked behind federal review. Governor Shapiro claims that the Trump Administration is currently withholding "billions of dollars in Congressionally-approved funding that we have committed to serious needs – like protecting public health, cutting energy costs, providing safe, clean drinking water, and creating jobs in rural communities."

While multiple federal judges have ordered the Trump Administration to unfreeze the allocated funding, Governor Shapiro said "access has not been restored, leaving [his] Administration with no choice but to pursue legal action to protect the interests of the Commonwealth and its residents." Although it is too early to predict the outcome of the case, Governor Shapiro's suit to unfreeze the designated funds has a strong Constitutional basis. His principal argument stems from the Constitution's guarantee that federal agencies do not have the power to suspend or impede states' access to Congressionally-appropriated funds. While Commonwealth students are likely in no danger of losing federal educational aid, the future of allocated funds for necessary state infrastructure may not be as certain.



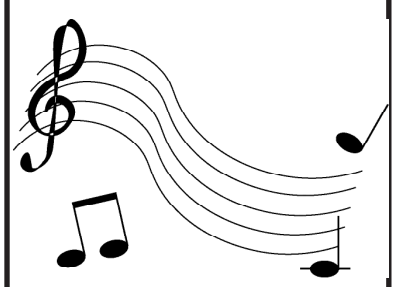
UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22
Conducting Symposium Concert
7:00 pm Steadman Theater

SATURDAY MARCH 1
Piano Festival
All Day Steadman Theater

THURSDAY MARCH 6 - SUNDAY MARCH 8
The Hunchback of Notre Dame
7:30 Straughn Theater
2:30 Straughn Theater

SATURDAY MARCH 1
Piano Festival
All Day Steadman Theater



MU Men's Basketball falls to #25 Golden Rams, 84-76

Taya-Reese Johnson
Secretary

On Saturday, February 8, Mansfield University's men's basketball team lost to the #25 Golden Rams of West Chester University by a score of 84-76. The Golden Rams opened scoring for the matchup after a Mountaineer turnover just a minute into the game. During the first half, the biggest margin that the Golden Rams led by was five points. The Golden Rams went into halftime ahead 37-33. During the first half, the Mountaineers shot 12 for 33 from the field, two for 12 from behind the arc, and seven for ten from the free throw line. The Golden Rams fared better as they shot 15 for 29 from the field, three for eight from behind the three-point line, and four for five from the free throw line.

A newcomer to the 1,000-career points club, graduate forward Scott Woodring kicked off the scoring for the second half. With less than four minutes left, and down by the largest deficit at that point in the game, the Mountaineers trailed 74-68. With two minutes left, the Mountaineers were about to shrink the deficit to two points; however, the Golden Rams pulled away and won by a score of 84-76. In the second half, the Mountaineers were 13 for 37 from the field, five for 12 from beyond the arc, and 12 for 16 from the free throw line. The victorious Golden Rams shot 15 for 31 from the field, four for 11 from behind the arc, and 13 for 18 from the free throw line.

In a matchup with ten lead changes and the score being tied eight times, all eight Mountaineers who checked into the game scored. Graduate guard Ty Crespo led with 26 points. Crespo played 35 minutes, recording two rebounds and three assists. Woodring led with 37 minutes, during which he scored 14 points and recorded a team-leading six rebounds. Junior guard Sterling Scott led with four assists. During Scott's 29 minutes on the floor, he recorded three rebounds and six points. Graduate guard Owen Chambers and sophomore guard Diarmid Stewart both played for 28 minutes. Chambers recorded 10 points, five rebounds, and an assist. Stewart recorded five points and five rebounds. Freshman guard Lleyton Fried and junior guard Jaydan Montgomery played 14 minutes apiece. Fried recorded six points, four rebounds, and an assist. Montgomery grabbed five rebounds, recorded two assists and five points. Junior guard Nasir Brown scored four points, grabbed five rebounds, and recorded an assist during his 14 minutes on the floor.

With the loss, the Mountaineers are now 7-16 overall (4-12 PSAC East). Now in sixth in the PSAC East, the Mountaineers have five games left in the regular season as they look to improve. On Wednesday, February 12, the Mountaineers visit the Bald Eagles of Lock Haven University for a 7:30 p.m. matchup. The following Saturday, February 15, the Mountaineers' matchup against the Marauders of Millersville University tips off at 3:00 p.m. in Pucillo Gymnasium. The Mountaineers then head to West Virgina to face the Rams of Shepherd University. Their matchup against the Rams tips off at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19. After this series of away games, the Mountaineers return to Marion Decker Gymnasium to celebrate Senior Day. On Saturday, February 22, their Senior Day game, which will tip off at 3:00 p.m., will be against the Warriors of East Stroudsburg University. On Saturday, March 1, the Mountaineers' final game, tipping off at 3:00 p.m., will be against the Raiders of Shippensburg University.

Photos Courtesy of Emma Palmer

Memoir of a Snail: A Tragicomedy Worth Your Time (and Tears)

Lilac Burke
Staff Writer

Few stop-motion films are for an adult audience. And fewer are both heartwarming and heartbreaking at the same time. Memoir of a Snail, directed by Australian animator Adam Elliot, manages to have these characteristics.

The film is about a pair of twins, Grace and Gilbert Pudel, whose unbreakable bond helps them endure their rocky childhoods. The shy, awkward Grace is an avid hoarder of snail-related memorabilia, and the reckless Gilbert has penchants for fire and stage magic. He aggressively defends his sister, who is often bullied due to a facial disfigurement. After the first of many tragedies strike, the two are separated and sent to starkly contrasting foster homes. Grace's foster parents are supportive but neglectful; Gilbert's free spirit is stifled by a conservative religious family who presses him into servitude at their apple orchard.

As Grace enters adulthood (and eventually is voiced by Succession's Sarah Snook), she becomes depressed. Her snail collection expands and her impulse to add more to it increases. She befriends an eccentric old lady, Pinky (voiced by Jacki Weaver of Yellowstone), who has definitely gone places. She's played ping-pong with Fidel Castro, and she's lost two husbands and several jobs. But despite all the ups and downs of her life, she remains positive, convincing Grace to do the same. Grace also gets a boyfriend, but I can't reveal too much about their relationship without spoiling the movie.

Meanwhile, Gilbert (now voiced by Kodi Smit-McPhee, whose film Maria I plan to review soon) continues to suffer from his foster family's abuse. They are horrified by basic aspects of him, taking drastic and inhumane measures to "cure" him. He grows more desperate to flee the horrors of his living situation and find his sister.

Grace soon becomes more depressed than ever, collecting more snails. Every corner of her house is occupied with a snail or fifty. (And they're all actual handmade props, which is mind-blowingly impressive.) But she eventually learns that "the worst cages are the ones we build around ourselves." That's a very provocative thought.

Like Grace's hoard mentioned earlier, everything in this film is handmade. There's no digital effects or AI involved, and you can see the animators' fingerprints on the characters' clay bodies. Director Adam Elliot has physiological tremors—his hands naturally tremble—so his art tends to look unconventional. Working with stop-motion has helped him embrace his imperfections and overcome his disability, which is why many of his characters have disabilities and/or are misfits (like in his other films, which include Harvie Krumpet and Mary and Max).

The film has a sepia color scheme, adding an extra layer of melancholy to it, as does the strings-and-piano-driven score by Elena Kats-Chernin. The voice acting is phenomenal; I was particularly moved by the two leads' performances. Snook gives Grace genuine warmth and hope, acting as a casual yet colorful narrator. When Grace is hopeless, one can definitely tell, as Snook's portrayal is that realistic. While recording, Snook actually read her lines to the puppet of Sylvia, one of Grace's pet snails in the movie. Smit-McPhee's Gilbert is desperate and fed up; his grounded approach really gives one the sense that Gilbert has a suppressed spirit and is done with everything. His rules are set in stone: he's going to leave his foster home, and he's going to find Grace. Smit-McPhee's portrayal reinforces the fact that Gilbert doesn't just plan to escape, he needs to and he will.

This movie made me laugh and bawl. It gave me the widest grin and unleashed cascades of tears. I rooted for and worried about both twins all the way through. It's slice-of-life storytelling at its best. And it's summed up by its tagline, this Kierkegaard quote: "Life can only be understood backwards, but it must be lived forwards."

Memoir of a Snail was released in 2024. It is 94 minutes long and rated R.

Top 5 Boyband Songs for Valentine's Day

Abigail LeValley
Staff Writer

On Valentine's Day, it's common for couples to go on dates, buy gifts for each other, and do every other stereotypical activity that you see on TV. For single people though, the best part of Valentine's Day is the next day where you get to buy all the leftover candy for fifty percent off. While doing something nice for your friends is probably a better thing to do, you could also spend your day listening to songs from different boybands. To give you an idea on what to do for Valentine's Day next year, I will list some of my personal favorite boyband songs. While I could tell you about multiple songs from many different boybands, I'll stick to just telling you my top five boyband songs. To avoid a list of only One Direction and Big Time Rush, I will stick to one song per band to give some variety.

Starting the list is "As Long as You Love Me" by The Backstreet Boys (BSB). While the more popular choice would probably be "I Want it That Way," I much prefer "As Long as You Love Me" since it feels more like a song that you would want someone to serenade you with. It also hasn't been overplayed and doesn't make me giggle when I listen to it, unlike "I Want it That Way." BSB is also one of the most classic examples of a boyband and I felt like a fake fan of the genre by not including them.

The next song I recommend is "Boyfriend" by Big Time Rush (BTR). This is a song that I would play for someone who has never listened to a boyband. The beat and lyrics are some of the most stereotypical boyband beats and lyrics I've ever heard in the most satisfying way possible. BTR has been in my life since the TV show came out and "Boyfriend" has always been my favorite of all their songs. The song came out in 2010, which means I was four years old when it came out and trusting a four-year old's taste in music is always a great idea.

The third song is "Burnin' Up" by The Jonas Brothers (JoBros). Ok, so I mostly like this song because me and my sister like to sing the part where Nick Jonas yells

"RED DRESS!" but the rest of the song is also very good. I would recommend any JoBros song to someone, but this song feels more fitting for Valentine's Day, since it's actually a love song. I don't actually have much to say about this song, it's just a solid song with good vocals, lyrics, and beats.

My next choice is a song from a band that technically isn't a boyband since they don't classify themselves as one, but I feel wrong not mentioning "She Looks so Perfect" by Five Seconds of Summer. This song is just one of my favorite songs in general, so of course it would be in my boyband favorites. It is another song that I can't say much about except for the fact that I just think it's a good song, and it's one of the band's more popular songs.

Before I get to the last song, I would like to add "Can't Help Falling in Love" by Elvis Presley as an honorable mention, since it's my favorite love song and second favorite song ever.

My number one and the obligatory One Direction (1D) song, I choose "Night Changes." This song means a lot to many people, especially after Liam Payne tragically died last year. This song means a lot to me, because my dad had the CD for this song, and I liked to listen to it in his car. The song has a calming tone to it and, overall, a sweet and sentimental message. This is another song that has persisted through most of my life, and I almost never skip it when it comes on my playlist.

If you're looking for something to do next Valentine's Day, I implore you to listen to one of these songs, or at least some type of boyband.

Governor Josh Shapiro's 2025 Budget Proposal

Lillian Ulsh
Editor in Cheif

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has unveiled an ambitious $51.5 billion budget proposal for the 2025-26 fiscal year, a significant increase of $3.5 billion from the previous year. His plan prioritizes education, public transit, healthcare, and economic development while introducing new revenue sources such as the legalization of adult-use cannabis and taxation of skill games. However, concerns over long-term fiscal sustainability have sparked a heated debate among lawmakers.

A major highlight of Shapiro's budget is a $526 million increase for public K-12 schools, focusing on underfunded districts to address educational disparities. This move follows a court ruling that deemed Pennsylvania's school funding system unconstitutional, necessitating reforms to ensure fair resource distribution. Higher education institutions, including Penn State, Temple University, and the University of Pittsburgh, are also set to receive increased funding. The goal is to strengthen Pennsylvania's workforce by investing in industries like technology, healthcare, and manufacturing.

Public transportation agencies, particularly SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority), have struggled financially since the COVID-19 pandemic. To address this, the budget proposes an additional $300 million in funding, aiming to prevent service cuts and fare hikes while improving accessibility for commuters. Additionally, the budget directs over $2 billion toward human services, focusing on healthcare for low-income residents. Rural communities are also a priority, with $5 million allocated to infrastructure and trail improvements to boost tourism and local economies.

To make Pennsylvania more business-friendly, Shapiro plans to gradually lower the corporate net income tax from 8.99% to 4.99% by 2026. Additionally, legalizing adult-use cannabis is expected to generate approximately $1.3 billion in revenue over five years. The taxation of skill games, currently unregulated gambling-style machines, is another proposed source of income. Despite not increasing personal income or sales taxes, the budget relies heavily on Pennsylvania's $4.5 billion surplus. Critics, particularly Republican lawmakers, warn that this approach could lead to a projected $27 billion deficit over five years if spending is not balanced with sustainable revenue sources. Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward has expressed concerns that the budget depends on revenues that have not yet materialized, raising the possibility of future tax hikes.

As the budget moves to the legislature, negotiations are expected to shape the final version. The challenge will be balancing necessary investments with fiscal responsibility. While Shapiro's proposal lays out a transformative vision for Pennsylvania, bipartisan cooperation will be crucial to its passage and long-term success.

Roger Maisner's $1 Million Donation to CU Mansfield Campus Athletics

CU News

MANSFIELD – Roger Maisner, Mansfield Professor Emeritus and former Director of Athletics, has committed a record $1 million towards student-athlete scholarships through the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation (MUMF), making it the largest gift in the history of Mountaineer Athletics.

$100,000 of the gift will go towards immediate use scholarships supporting the men's and women's basketball, softball, and baseball programs at Mansfield.

"I'm a teacher/coach and I believe those words are synonymous, thus I am hoping to inspire my former students to step up and support Mansfield in this way also," explained Maisner, now in his 49th year at Mansfield. "This has been a goal for a long time. I'm honored, humbled, and excited to be able to support Mansfield. I hope this gift motivates and inspires students and student-athletes in how important it is to give back and set the example.

"I am hoping my students and colleagues surpass this gift in the next year," Maisner said about his record contribution to Athletics.

"I'm thrilled to see the enthusiasm surrounding the Mansfield campus of Commonwealth University," said John Wetzel, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Commonwealth University. "Thank you, Roger, for supporting Mansfield student-athletes in such a significant way. This gift, along with other recent investments at Mansfield, further strengthens our mission of providing an affordable and accessible education in the northern tier of Pennsylvania."

"This is a landmark moment for Mansfield, Mountaineer student-athletes, and the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation," said Bashar W. Hanna, president of Commonwealth University. "We are eternally grateful to Roger for his many dedicated years of service to Mansfield and its students. This remarkable gift, along with his ongoing service, continues Roger's legacy of enhancing opportunity for Mounties."

Maisner came to Mansfield in 1976 as an instructor in health and physical education, assistant basketball coach and head golf coach. He coached 21 total seasons as an assistant and head basketball coach, head baseball coach and head golf coach. Maisner was named the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Baseball Coach of the Year in 1984. He was inducted into the Mansfield Alumni-Athletic Hall of Fame as an assistant basketball coach on the Mountaineers 26-win PSAC Basketball Championship team of 1984.

In 1985, Maisner was named director of athletics at Mansfield, a position he held for 28 years. He led the transition of Mountie athletics from NCAA Division III to Division II and helped raise millions of dollars for student-athlete scholarships. Maisner played a lead role in many additions to and construction of athletic facilities including Lutes Field, Shaute Field, Spaulding Field, the Soccer Field and major upgrades to Van Norman Field, Maxson Track, Russell Field and Decker Gym.

As a faculty member in the Health and Physical Education Department, Maisner taught kinesiology, coaching and athletic administration classes, activity courses, and many different health and continuing ed courses. As a professor and director of athletics, he worked directly with over 15,000 Mansfield students, staff, and administrators in 20 sports and a dozen academic courses.

After 37 years in athletics, Maisner continued to teach and was asked to be the first coordinator of military and veteran affairs. In that role, he was responsible for creating the Veterans Support Group, a committee of faculty, staff, students and community members. This group established the Military Resource Center, the Student Veterans Organization, the annual Military Appreciation Luncheon and raised thousands of dollars for student scholarships. Even after his retirement from the university in 2022, Maisner continues to serve in the coordinator role with Military and Veteran Affairs as a volunteer.

Maisner was selected to join the inaugural Board for the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation, which was established in 2024 to specifically support Mansfield students, faculty, and programs through fundraising.

"We have an incredible Board that is dedicated to enhancing fundraising in support of Mansfield and its students," explained Kate Billmeyer, senior director of philanthropy at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation. "I'm heartened to see Roger, as a founding MUMF Board member, set the example for others who bleed red and black to follow."

"Roger's support is an investment in the future of Mountaineer Athletics and our incredible student-athletes" said Gretchen Sechrist, Mansfield campus administrator and interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate education. "We're grateful for his profound impact and will continue to build on the momentum of this and all the investments being made at Mansfield."

The Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation is the only officially recognized foundation that exists solely to support Commonwealth University-Mansfield and its students. To make a gift, visit mountaineerfdn.org

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CAMPUS NEWS

CU News

Zegalia '94 to provide keynote for CU-Mansfield Career Intensive Boot Camp on Feb. 21-22

MANSFIELD - Rocco Zegalia '94, business development/ account manager at TWG Security, will give the keynote address at the Commonwealth University-Mansfield Spring 2025 Career Intensive Boot Camp on Feb. 21-22.

Career Intensive Boot Camp is a two-day student-to-professional transition conference open to Commonwealth University juniors and seniors of all majors. The event includes an etiquette dinner, resume reviews and mock interviews by alumni and professionals, professional headshots, panel discussions, speakers, and more.

"Career Intensive Boot Camp is a transformative opportunity for students to connect with alumni and professionals, sharpen their skills, and gain invaluable insights as they prepare for their next career steps," said Nichole Lefelhoc, director of career & professional development at Commonwealth University. "We're thrilled to bring this dynamic event to CU-Mansfield and provide a platform for students to build their confidence and launch their professional journeys."

Zegalia has been in a sales and marketing capacity in the Lehigh Valley for nearly 30 years with focus on building strong relationships and networking. His keynote "Networking: What it is and Why it is Important" will be delivered to attendees on the second day of the event.

Zegalia earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Mansfield University in 1994 following his duty in the Security Forces of the U.S. Air Force. Zegalia, who continues to have strong ties to Mansfield, was honored with the Austin Snyder Alumni Appreciation Award in 2018 and is a member of the organizing committee for the annual Steve Zegalia Memorial Golf Outing that brings hundreds of alumni and friends to Mansfield to raise funds in support of Mountaineer football each summer.

Zegalia is Vice-Chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lehigh Valley, Chair Elect of the American Heart Association, and serves on leadership boards for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Twice nominated as a Visionary of the Year by the LLS, he was named 2023 Leader of Impact by the AHA and Mentoring Champion by BBBS. He has been a member of the Executive Forum of the Lehigh Valley for over 15 years.

"I am excited that our alumni want to give back to Mansfield," said Dave Donlick, director of alumni & employer engagement. "Sharing their experiences with current students and creating these connection strengthens our Mountie pride across the nation."

Mansfield Police Academy Accepting Applications for 2025 Class

The Commonwealth University-Mansfield Municipal Police Academy is actively recruiting for its upcoming, full-time Act 120 Academy class, which begins May 27.

The Mansfield Act 120 Municipal Police Academy is a 26-week course required to become a municipal police officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Established in 1977, Mansfield's Academy is certified by the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC).

Because of the Academy's exceptional reputation and its network of partners, Mansfield Academy graduates enjoy a 95% job placement rate upon completion of the program. Graduates consistently rank among the top in Pennsylvania police academies in GPA and state certification examination scores.

The Academy features experienced instructors with extensive knowledge of police recruit training and the criminal justice system. The instructor cadre includes active and retired Pennsylvania State Police and Municipal Police, attorneys, educators, magistrates, and a common pleas judge.

Mansfield has been at the forefront of emerging technologies in law enforcement and was the first academy in the state to include virtual reality training for cadets. The immersive VR experience allows students to take the knowledge learned in the classroom and immediately apply it to a variety of life-like scenarios.

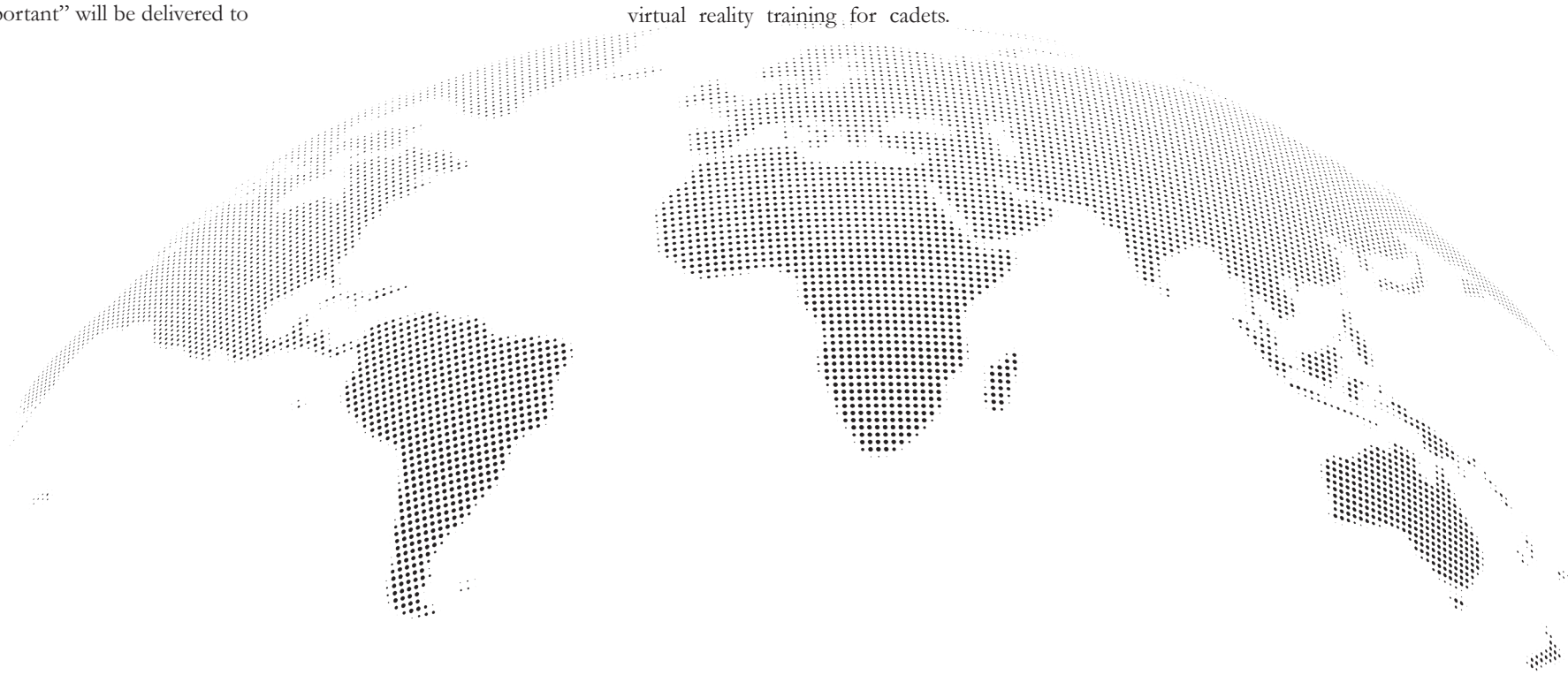
Cadets have the option to live on-campus in Mansfield's suite-style, air-conditioned residence halls during the academy.

Anyone interested in attending the Mansfield Police Academy should fill out a Statement of Interest form at commonwealthu.edu/academy.

Commonwealth University-Mansfield to host criminal justice and social work major showcase Feb. 18

The Commonwealth University-Mansfield Admissions Office will host a major showcase on Tuesday, Feb. 18, which will include a behind-the-scenes look at criminal justice and social work program faculty and current students at Mansfield. The showcase on will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

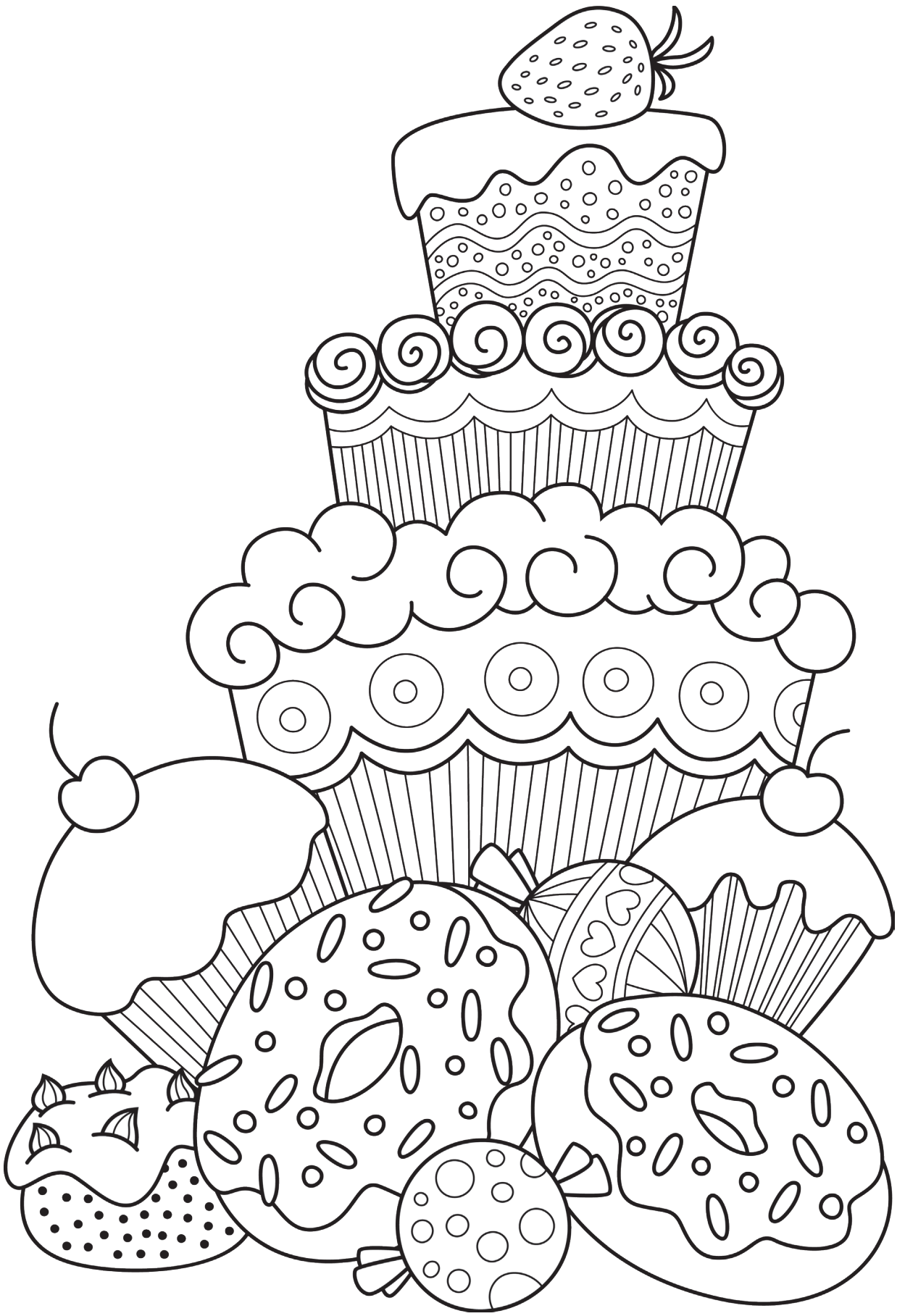
During the event, attendees will explore departmental classrooms and facilities; learn more about coursework, projects and career development; connect with current students and faculty for lunch on campus; and explore campus on an optional tour.



The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

CU-Mansfield ❖ Volume 125, Issue 1 ❖ Thursday, February 20 2025



The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

March 13, 2025
Volume 125
Issue 2

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Flooding Incident Disrupts Sycamore Residence Hall

Lilly Ulsh
Editor-in-Cheif

On Saturday, February 22, a sprinkler malfunction at Commonwealth University Mansfield led to significant flooding in multiple sections of Sycamore Residence Hall. The incident caused fire alarms to sound, prompting students to evacuate the building immediately. Emergency responders, including police officers and Resident Directors Austin Boroch and Taylor Donahue, quickly arrived on the scene to assess the situation. Once they deemed it safe, students were allowed back inside, only to discover the extent of the water damage in various areas of the residence hall.

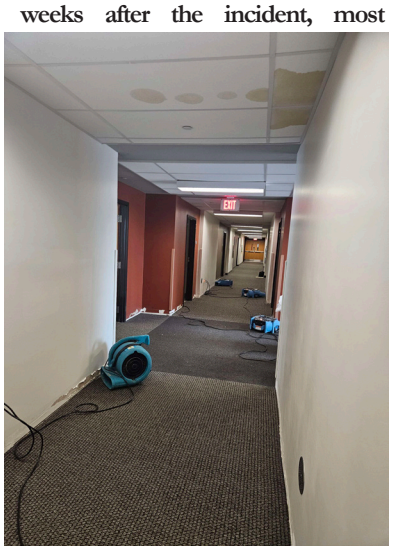
The flooding affected hallways, dorm rooms, and even study rooms, leaving behind severe damage. Ceiling tiles became waterlogged and collapsed onto the soaked floors below. In some sections of the building, water was measured at an inch deep, making certain areas hazardous and unfit for students to return to. Some students entered their rooms to find their belongings damp or ruined, with carpets, furniture, and personal items suffering from water exposure.

Recognizing the severity of the situation, the university's housing department took immediate action. For students whose rooms were significantly impacted by water damage, temporary housing accommodations were arranged. The university also ensured that a 24/7 emergency service was deployed to work on cleaning up the mess and beginning repairs. In addition to those with damaged rooms, students who were disturbed by the noise of ongoing restoration work or the smell of dampness were given the option to relocate temporarily.

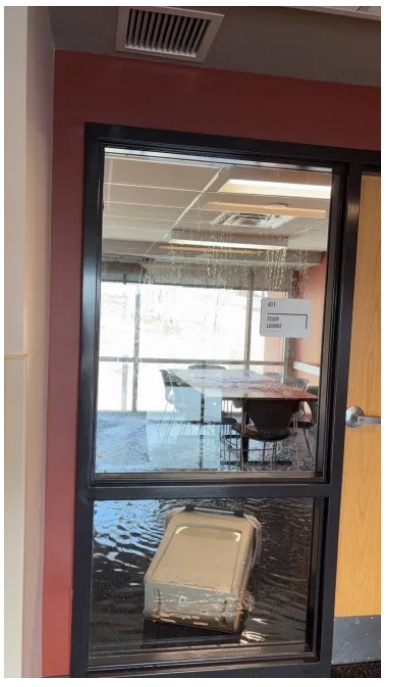
While the emergency response was swift, the road to full restoration has been ongoing. More than two weeks after the incident, most students have returned to their rooms, but the repair work is not yet complete. Maintenance crews continue to address the remaining damage, ensuring that the living conditions are restored to a safe and comfortable state. The incident has raised concerns among students about the infrastructure of campus housing and whether additional preventive measures should be put in place to avoid similar situations in the future.

The university has not yet released an official statement on what caused the sprinkler malfunction, nor has it provided an estimated timeline for the full completion of repairs. However, students affected by the flooding have expressed appreciation for the swift response from the housing department and emergency teams. Many are hopeful that moving forward, additional precautions will be taken to prevent another disruptive and costly incident like this from occurring again.

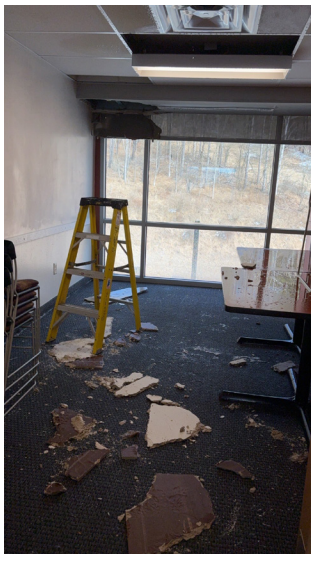
As the cleanup and repair process continues, the university community remains focused on ensuring that is once again a safe and comfortable home for its students.



Photos Courtesy of Lacey Rodgers



Photos Courtesy of Sierra Ramsey



MU Men's Basketball finishes season with loss to Shippensburg

Taya-Reese Johnson
Secretary

On Saturday, March 1, MU's men's basketball team lost their final game of the season to the Shippensburg University Raiders 59-75. The Raiders took a six-point lead at the start of the first half but trailed 24-31 going into the halftime break. During the first half, the Mountaineers shot 11 for 35 from the field, six for 16 from behind the arc, and three for four from the free throw line. The Raiders shot ten for 36 from the field, three for 14 from beyond the arc, and one for two from the free throw line.

In the second half, after three minutes of Raider buckets, the Mountaineers were able to get points onto the board. The Mountaineers finished the game having shot nine for 29 from the field, four from 11 from behind the arc, and six for nine from the free throw line during the second half. The Raiders shot 20 for 30 from the field, ten for 14 from beyond the arc, and one for two from the free throw line.

The Mountaineers scored 11 second-chance points, four fast break points, eight points off Raider turnovers, and 16 points in the paint. Mountaineers coming in off the bench contributed 34 points to the team's efforts. Despite the 12 lead changes during the game, the Mountaineers did not come out victorious.

The game featured stellar performances with all active Mountaineers contributing to the game effort either through individual points, assists, or a combination of both.

Freshman guard Lleyton Fried led the Mountaineers with time on the floor as he played for 32 minutes. Fried scored ten points, grabbed seven rebounds, and recorded two assists.

Junior guard Nasir Brown scored a team-high 16 points during his 19 minutes on the floor. Brown also recorded an assist and three rebounds.

Graduate forward Scott Woodring led the team with eight rebounds. Woodring played for 28 minutes in his final game as a Mountaineer, scoring seven points.

During this season, Woodring led scoring with a total of 293 points and rebounds with 197 during the 27 games that he played. Graduate guard Ty Crespo led the Mountaineer squad with 54 assists during the season. Sophomore guard Diarmid Stewart led the team with 24 steals.

With this 59-75 loss to the Raiders, the Mountaineers finish with an 8-19 overall (5-16 PSAC East) record and a seventh-place ranking in the PSAC East to conclude their 2024-2025 season.

Photo Courtesy of Morgan Brian

MU Men's Track and Field conclude their indoor season in the PSAC Championships

Dante Thompson
Staff Writer

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference Championships took place from Saturday, March 1, through Sunday, March 2, at the Philip Rauch Fieldhouse at Lehigh University. Eight Mountaineers took part in the PSAC Championships with five Mounties making their championship debut.

Senior Cahsid Raymond finished 15th in the 60-meter dash and matched his season best time of 7.05 seconds. Raymond had a major impact for the program as he broke records such as running the fourth fastest 60-meter dash, which cemented him in the program's history.

Freshman Jon McDannell marked his first PSAC championship by finishing 18th in the 60-meter hurdle with a time of 9.19.

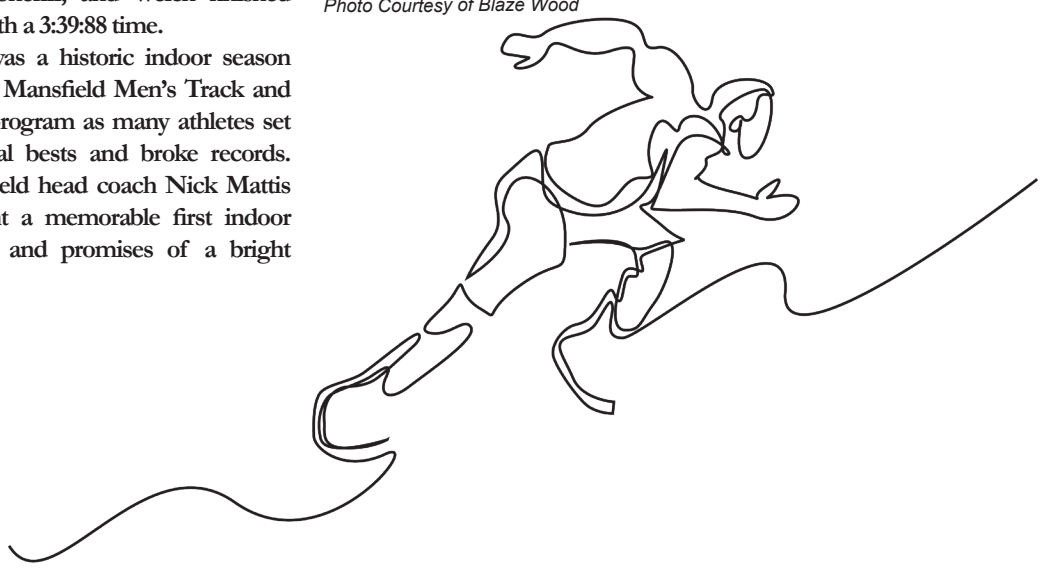
Marcus Quaker was second place in the heptathlon until he was injured.

Seth Neal, Ibrahim Sheriff, Noah Shedden, Pius Adomako, and Nathaniel Welch had a busy day in the championships. Sheriff, Neal, Shedden, and Welch competed in the distance medley relay and finished 10th with a time 10:55:49.

In the second day of the championships, four Mounties ran in the 4x400-meter relay. Adomako, Neal, Sheriff, and Welch finished 12th with a 3:39:88 time.

It was a historic indoor season for the Mansfield Men's Track and Field program as many athletes set personal bests and broke records. Mansfield head coach Nick Mattis brought a memorable first indoor season and promises of a bright future.

Photo Courtesy of Blaze Wood



UPCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY APRIL 7
Saxophone Studio Recital
6:30 pm Steadman Theater

SUNDAY APRIL 13
Festival Choir
2:30pm Steadman Theater

FRIDAY APRIL 25
Mansfieldians
7:30 Steadman Theater

SATURDAY APRIL 26
Symphonic Band
7:30PM Steadman Theater

SUNDAY APRIL 27
Concert Choir
2:30PM Steadman Theater

MONDAY APRIL 28
Brass Band
7:30PM Steadman Theater

MU Women's Basketball rounds out season with a win over Shippensburg

Taya-Reese Johnson
Secretary

MU's women's basketball team beat the Shippensburg Raiders, 63-57, in their final game of the season on Saturday, March 1. The Raiders opened the scoring in the matchup yet went into the second quarter trailing by three points. With a first quarter performance resulting in a 15-12 lead, the Mountaineers hit six for 15 from the field, two for seven from behind the arc, and one for two from the free throw line. The Raiders shot four for 12 from the field, two for four from behind the arc, and two for two from the free throw line.

During the second half, the Mountaineers shot six for 13 from the field, two for six on three pointers, and five for eight from the free throw line. The Raiders shot six for 17 from the field, two for eight from beyond the arc, and three for six from the free throw line. Going into halftime, the Mountaineers led 34-29.

Coming back from the halftime break, the Raiders scored the first bucket of the second half. During the third quarter, the Mountaineers shot three for 13 from the field, one for seven from behind the arc, and two for two from the free throw line. The Raiders shot six for 18 from the field, two for six from behind the three-point arc, and one for one from the free throw line—a performance that had them take the lead 43-44 at the end of the third quarter.

The Raiders' momentum carried into the fourth quarter with them scoring first. However, the Mountaineers' performance in the fourth quarter grabbed the end-of-the-season 63-57 win. The Mountaineers shot five for 13 from the field, four for eight from the behind three-point line, and six for eight from the free throw line. The Raiders shot three for 16 from the field, one for seven from beyond the arc, and six for seven from the free throw line.

Standout performances from the Mountaineers include that of sophomore guard Katie Sheeler who scored a career-high 27 points during the game and tied her career field goal record in a single game with eight. Sheeler now holds the second place slot in program history for most three-pointers in a single season as she finished the season with 73.

Junior guard Danae Ellzy scored 19 points against the Raiders, recording the tenth game in which she scored more than 15 points. Ellzy led the team with nine rebounds.

Senior forward Sarah Hortin had three blocks during the game. Hortin finished the season with 47 blocks, making her the first Mountaineer to be the PSAC regular season leader in blocks since the 2018-2019 season.

With the win, the Mountaineers conclude their 2024-2025 season with a 10-17 overall (6-15 PSAC East) record, finishing seventh in the PSAC East standings.

Film Review: Maria: Exploring the End of an Icon's Life

Lilac Burke
Staff Writer

I've seen many biopics about musicians. Amadeus, Elvis, A Complete Unknown—so many films! I've enjoyed them all, regardless of how historically accurate they are. But few have impacted me as much as Maria, a psychological drama based on the final days of opera singer Maria Callas.

The film is set in Paris in 1977, and at this point Maria's health has deteriorated. She unsuccessfully attempts to sing again after a hiatus. She is addicted to Mandrax, a sedative that causes hallucinations. She begins hallucinating that a filmmaker is following her and interviewing her. She begins to recall memories of her past through the illusory interviews, which pop up throughout the film as they may have done so in Maria's racing mind.

When these memories emerge, each is presented through a different camera filter, depending on which point in history it happened. Her adolescence during World War II is in black and white, and her various performances throughout the years are clearly filmed with historic cameras, or convincing replicas of such equipment. Her most prominent memories in the film, however, are of her love affair with Aristotle Onassis, who one could say acts as an intrusive thought, an antagonist to her. Although she admits she truly loves him on his deathbed, Maria clearly expresses the constraint she feels with him, which is partly based on the constraint she feels with fame.

The complications of fame are another main theme in Maria. She refuses to sing for her admirers, nor can she handle the publicity given to her by baristas playing her records. Part of this is due to her physical health problems caused by drug addiction, but her mental health comes into play here as well. Even in her fantasies spawned by her constant Mandrax consumption, she announces, "I will sing when I am ready to sing," much to the "filmmaker's" chagrin.

The way Maria's addiction is portrayed is also a highlight of this movie. The hallucinatory documentarian is a metaphor in itself—his eagerness to know more about Maria's life is reflective of Maria's own eagerness to keep taking Mandrax. Even though one is obviously an illusion, both characters seem to reciprocate their obsession with each other.

The acting is grounded and realistic; almost every role is approached with elegance. Maria, naturally, demonstrates these qualities the most through her timeless portrayal by Angelina Jolie. She depicts Maria with the right amount of sophistication to be down-to-earth, detailing Maria's struggles with balancing her image, her health, and her personal life. It was almost as if Jolie had teleported into Maria's psyche. She learned to sing opera for the role, which she succeeded in with the help of technology combining her voice with the real La Callas' voice.

Maria's butler and maid, Ferruccio and Bruna, are portrayed by Pierfrancesco Favino and Alba Rohrwacher with genuine backing and concern. They act as a support network for their mistress, but they both are beyond worried about her well-being, and those qualities shine through their actors' depictions. And, of course, the personification of Mandrax works incredibly well, thanks to yet another stunning portrayal by Kodi Smit-McPhee, whose acting in Memoir of a Snail I praised in last issue's review. He brings solemnity to the role, giving him a distinctively mysterious presence. But, as described earlier, he also brings to the character an eagerness to know more, which reflects Maria's addiction to "him." He, like his Memoir character Gilbert, is melancholy but (more subtly) desperate—akin to what the equally melancholy Maria would hallucinate.

The score is carefully curated, and it delighted me to recognize a majority of the operatic works cited. Many are on the tip of the aria iceberg, like the "Habanera" from Bizet's Carmen. (They're also, sadly, a reminder of opera's history of cultural appropriation, as Maria is seen performing Madam Butterfly in a kimono and geisha wig.) As assembled as the score may be, in contrast to a soundtrack made up of music that was composed for the film, everything works at exactly the right moment. During Maria's final and most emotional scenes, Puccini's most emotional aria, "E Lucevan Le Stelle (And the Stars Were Shining)" from Tosca, plays instrumentally in the background, adding a layer of heart-wrenching malaise to it. And the end credits music, Verdi's "Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves" from Nabucco, is one of the most powerful compositions written for an opera ever. (Thanks, Dr. Dodson-Webster!) Though it's a bit of an odd choice to end Maria with, since the story differs a lot, it's still impactful and tear-jerking, like the movie itself.

I understand that this film may not be for everyone. After all, a psychological drama about someone who's dead in real life is never going to be completely accurate. There's also the fact that it's more character-based than action-based, which may make it boring for some. But Maria still blew me away. It's quite different from other biopics I've seen, since it takes the audience on a journey through the famous soprano's life, but it looks back instead of remaining "in the present." It's like looking through a scrapbook while on its owner's deathbed. All the memories come back when it's too late to look to the future. And that's why the film just works—it really feels like a retrospective, made with love and dignity.

Maria was released in 2024 and is available to stream on Netflix. It is 124 minutes long and rated R.

Photo Courtesy of Gateway Film Center

Inaugural Susquehanna Film Festival to Debut in Williamsport, Pennsylvania

Williamsport, PA – February 21, 2025 – The Susquehanna Film Festival is set to make its debut on September 20 and 21, 2025, in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Founded by Williamsport native and Los Angeles-based independent film producer Tim Yasui, the festival aims to celebrate both international and regional cinema.

The festival will showcase a diverse selection of feature films and short films from around the globe, with a special emphasis on works produced in Pennsylvania and the Mid-Atlantic states. Submissions are encouraged from filmmakers of all levels, including students whose projects may have been overlooked by larger national festivals.

"As a filmmaker and film distributor who has recently produced films in the Commonwealth (such as last summer's box office surprise COCAINE WEREWOLF, shot in nearby Wellsboro, PA) , I wanted to create a vehicle to bring attention specifically to the Williamsport area as a viable location to shoot films and also to reward those local film makers by including their regionally shot films in our Festival," said Tim Yasui." I also want to encourage film fans of all ages to get off the couch and experience movies the way they were originally intended to be experienced—in a real movie theater!"

The festival will be held at the District Cinema at Lycoming Valley, located at the former Lycoming Mall in Williamsport. Over the two-day event, attendees can look forward to screenings of dozens of never-before-seen films across two screens, including several encore performances of important independent films making their theatrical debuts on the big screen. District Theater GM Jordan Musheno said, "we are so excited to be able to host the first inaugural Susquehanna Film Festival at the District Cinema. It's incredibly important to celebrate and showcase both internationally and locally made films and we believe this provides a great opportunity to experience this kind of cinema on the big screen."

"The Susquehanna Film Festival is a fantastic addition to Williamsport's growing arts scene. It not only highlights incredible independent filmmakers but also strengthens our region's reputation as a hub for creative talent." said Noah Bieter, Chair, Lycoming Arts Film Office. "We at Lycoming Arts are excited to support this inaugural event and look forward to seeing it flourish in the years to come."

An awards ceremony will conclude the festival, honoring outstanding achievements in categories such as Best Student Film, Best Pennsylvania-Made Film, Best Documentary, Best Short Film, Best Drama, Best Horror, Best Comedy, and Best Animation. A panel of independent judges will evaluate the submissions to determine the winners.

Tim Yasui, a 1979 graduate of Williamsport Area High School, has built a distinguished career in the entertainment industry. He studied classical piano, violin, percussion, and sang in his church choir during his youth in Williamsport. Since relocating to Los Angeles in 1987, Yasui has recorded and globally released nine studio albums as the co-founder/drummer/vocalist/keyboardist of the post-LONDON band SPIDERS & SNAKES, appeared on drums on numerous other artist's releases and has produced/co-produced/associate produced dozens of feature films, documentary films and concert films.

Yasui's on-screen debut as an actor was in the Roger Corman film, Hollywood Boulevard Part II, which earned him his SAG card for performing and singing in the film with the band LONDON. Several national and regional TV commercials, Music Videos (including performing on drums with William Shatner and Billy Gibbons of ZZ TOP fame), and appearances in feature films like Lion Heart, Where The Day Takes You, Ford Fairlane, Shock 'Em Dead, Hollywood Rocks, Vamps In The City and The Black Mass followed. He currently resides in Beverly Hills, California, and continues to produce and distribute films and record and perform live in his new band HOLLYWOOD AFTER DARK.

The District Cinema opened in the spring of 2024 and is owned and operated by Dipson Theatres. Established in 1939, the Dipson theater chain has emerged as a prominent player in the cinema industry, boasting a rich history spanning over eight decades. With a legacy rooted in providing top-notch cinematic experiences, Dipson Theatres has expanded to encompass 56 screens across various locations in the mid-Atlantic region.

(Tickets will be available later this Spring, 2025)

Inquiries can be directed to Tim Yasui at timyasui@sbcglobal.net or by phone at 310-702-0814.

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About the Susquehanna Film Festival:

The Susquehanna Film Festival is the first of its kind in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Founded by LA-based independent film producer and Williamsport native Tim Yasui, the festival aims to celebrate and acknowledge international films as well as regionally produced feature films and short films from the Greater Pennsylvania and Mid-Atlantic states. The festival encourages submissions from filmmakers and students whose works might be overlooked by national festivals.

Lycoming Arts is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering the arts in Williamsport, PA, and the surrounding region. Through vibrant community events like Williamsport First Friday, public art initiatives, and artist support programs, Lycoming Arts connects creatives, businesses, and residents to celebrate and strengthen the local arts scene

PHOTO: Tim Yasui on drums in recent music video for Grammy Award nominated singer/songwriter ALANA DAVIS (photo credit courtesy of Cleopatra Records)

Sheeler Earns First Career All-PSAC Second Team Honors

gomounties.com

LOCK HAVEN, Pa. – On Friday afternoon (Mar. 7), Katie Sheeler represented the Mansfield Mountaineers women's basketball team on the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) Eastern Division Second Team after a breakout sophomore season, announced by the conference office.

Sheeler led the PSAC with 73 three-pointers. With 11 games of 20+ points in the regular season, the sophomore averaged 16.6 points, finishing the fourth highest in the conference and sank the fourth most free throws with 117.

Her 73 threes stood as the second most in a single season for the Mounties, while also tying the program record for three-pointers in a game with eight in the final game of the season at Shippensburg.

Playing the third most minutes throughout the conference, the guard also grabbed the ninth most steals on the year with 57.

Sheeler marks the fourth All-Conference member in the Amy Senefelder era.

Shapiro's Budget Proposal Sparks Debate Among CU-Mansfield Students

Lilly Ulsh
Editor-in-Chief

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has introduced a $51.5 billion budget proposal for the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a $3.5 billion increase from the previous budget. The plan prioritizes education, public transit, healthcare, and economic development while relying on new revenue sources such as the legalization of adult-use cannabis and taxation on skill games. However, the budget's long-term sustainability has become a point of contention among lawmakers, with some warning of potential financial instability.

For students at Commonwealth University-Mansfield, a part of PASSHE, the proposed funding for higher education is particularly relevant. Shapiro's budget includes increased financial support for Pennsylvania's public universities. PASSHE looks to receive a proposed $661.1 million, a 6.5% increase over last year and could enable the state system keep tuition flat for the eighth consecutive year. The emphasis on higher education funding is meant to boost workforce development in fields like technology, healthcare, and manufacturing, which could benefit students preparing to enter these industries. However, it remains unclear how much of this funding will trickle down to regional universities like Mansfield.

Another major component of the budget is a $526 million increase in public K-12 education funding, aimed at addressing disparities in underfunded districts. This move follows a court ruling declaring Pennsylvania's school funding system unconstitutional, pushing the state toward reforms that would provide fairer resource distribution. While this funding increase is largely focused on primary and secondary schools, some Mansfield students pursuing teaching careers view this as a step toward a more equitable education system, potentially improving job prospects in public schools across the state.

For students who rely on public transportation, the budget's proposed $300 million boost to transit funding could be a welcome relief. Agencies like SEPTA have struggled financially since the pandemic, and this funding aims to prevent service cuts and fare hikes. Though Mansfield students may not depend on SEPTA, those who commute or plan to live in urban areas post-graduation recognize the importance of a well-funded transit system for accessibility and job opportunities.

The economic aspect of the budget has also drawn attention on campus. Shapiro's plan to reduce Pennsylvania's corporate net income tax from 8.99% to 4.99% by 2026 is intended to make the state more business-friendly. Additionally, the legalization of adult-use cannabis is expected to generate over $1.3 billion in revenue over five years, while the taxation of skill games, currently an unregulated gambling market, is another potential income stream. Some students support these measures, seeing them as innovative ways to boost state revenue without increasing income or sales taxes. However, critics argue that relying on these untested revenue sources could create financial uncertainty, possibly leading to budget shortfalls down the line.

Despite Shapiro's optimistic projections, concerns remain about long-term fiscal stability. With Pennsylvania's $4.5 billion surplus playing a key role in funding this plan, critics—especially Republican lawmakers—argue that the state could be heading toward a $27 billion deficit within five years if spending isn't more carefully managed. Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward has voiced concerns about relying on revenue that has yet to materialize, warning that future tax hikes might be necessary if the funding plan falls short.

As the budget proposal moves to the legislature, students at Commonwealth University-Mansfield are keeping a close watch. While many support the increased investment in education, infrastructure, and workforce development, there's also uncertainty about how much this funding will actually benefit their campus and whether the state can afford such an ambitious plan in the long run. With negotiations ahead, the final version of the budget could look quite different—but for now, students remain hopeful yet cautious about what it could mean for their future.

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Write for the Flashlight today!

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CAMPUS NEWS

CU News

23 PA Fish & Boat Commission Waterways Conservation Officer trainees graduate from Mansfield Police Academy

Twenty-three Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Waterways Conservation Officer trainees graduated from Commonwealth University-Mansfield's Act 120 Police Academy in December.

Waterways Conservation Officers (WCO) are state officers specifically trained in fishery conservation, watercraft safety, and environmental protection. WCO's help to protect the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, the fish that inhabit them and the anglers and boaters that utilize them.

Trainees must complete a year-long program, which includes the Act 120 Municipal Police Officer certification provided at Mansfield. The majority of the training takes place at Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's H.R. Stackhouse School of Fishery Conservation and Watercraft Safety located in Bellefonte.

The Mansfield Police Academy is the exclusive provider of Act 120 certification for the WCO training. The 2024 class represents the second set of WCO trainees to be certified at the Mansfield Academy held from September to December.

"The continued partnership between Commonwealth University and the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission underscores the excellence of Mansfield's Police Academy training," said Bashar W. Hanna, president of Commonwealth University. "We take great pride in equipping future Waterways Conservation Officers with the skills and knowledge they need to ensure public safety on Pennsylvania's waterways."

"Today's graduates have shown exceptional dedication and commitment to their training and now their expertise will ensure our waterways remain safe, vibrant and protected," State Sen. Gene Yaw (R-23) said. "I proudly extend my sincere congratulations to our newest Waterways Conservation Officers."

"Mansfield's police academy training is top-notch, and it's great to see the university teaming up with the Fish and Boat Commission again to help prepare the next generation of Waterways Conservation Officers," said State Rep. Clint Owlett (R-68). "These men and women have an important job to do in protecting our waterways and the public, and with the training they have received at Mansfield, they are well prepared to do so."

The WCO trainees who successfully completed the requirements of the Act 120 certification in the 2024 class include:

Jacob Alcorn, Venango
Jenna Alleman, Perry
Blake Anderson, Erie
Robert Angst, Montgomery
Kamron Bettinger, York
David Brockett, Venango
Andrew Callahan, Erie
Krystal Daniele, Luzerne
Colton Dinges, Blair
Jeffrey Finch, Potter
Andrew Fish, Venango
Wyatt Fleischer, Crawford
Dalton Hopper, Centre
Dustan Luzier, Lycoming
Joseph MacClay, Bucks
Kyle Michaels, Carbon
Michael Mielnicki, Allegheny
Derrick Noonan, Blair
Jacob Oliver, Crawford
Nathan Ridgley, Luzerne
Hunter Sanner, Somerset
Cassidy Shawley, Blair
Steven Zeigler, Westmoreland

In addition to certifying future Waterways Conservation Officers, the Mansfield Police Academy has provided annual Act 120 training to aspiring municipal police officers since 1977. The Mansfield Act 120 Police Academy is a 26-week course required to become a municipal police officer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Mansfield Police Academy, visit commonwealthu.edu/academy

CU-Mansfield Loomis Gallery Exhibit: 'Zweygardt Sculpture, Current Work'

An exhibition of sculpture by Glenn Zweygardt is on display through April 3 in the Loomis Gallery, 135 Stadium Dr., Allen Hall, Commonwealth University-Mansfield.

On Wednesday, March 5, there will be an artist talk from 3-4 p.m. in Allen Hall, room 104, followed by a reception from 4-6 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Loomis Gallery will be closed the week of March 17 for spring break.

Tom Elsasser Memorial Scholarship Established at Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation

MANSFIELD, Pa.— Kerry Elsasser ’92 ’98 and Amy Morel L’Horset ’96 have established the Tom Elsasser Memorial Scholarship at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation to honor their late father’s life and legacy at Mansfield. The Elsasser Memorial Scholarship will provide scholarships for student-athletes competing in both men’s and women’s sports at Mansfield.

Elsasser, who passed away in 2023, served as the head coach of Mansfield’s NCAA Division II football team from 1983-1995. He holds the record for the longest tenure as well as most wins of any coach in Mansfield football history. Beyond individual accolades, including being named PSAC East Coach of the Year in 1990, Elsasser supported student-athletes in attaining their goals in the classroom and in their sport. With players named to All-PSAC East honors 83 times during his tenure as head coach, some of coach Elsasser’s players went on to sign professional contracts with the CFL, NFL, and international leagues.

“Our father loved Mansfield University,” Kerry and Amy said in a joint statement. “He supported both students and coaches and believed in the power of a relationship between a coach and an athlete. We know that it would be important to him to give this financial boost to coaches in order to help student-athletes grow and thrive at Mansfield.”

All three of coach Elsasser’s daughters attended Mansfield University. Kerry majored in education, Amy in dietetics, and the late Ruth Elsasser-Kolberg in nursing.

The Elsasser Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to student-athletes who are natives of New Jersey as a nod to Elsasser’s coaching roots in Passaic. The inaugural recipient of the Tom Elsasser Memorial Scholarship is Ian Mapp, a junior sprint football student-athlete selected by his coaching staff. Mapp, a native of Burlington Township, New Jersey, is a nursing major, a nod to Ruth who spent her career in the nursing field.

“Tom’s legacy is such an important one to so many at Mansfield,” explained Peggy Carl, Mansfield athletics director. “This scholarship in his name will help student-athletes achieve new heights while helping to provide them with the boost they need to thrive. We are forever grateful to Kerry, Amy, and the entire Elsasser family for continuing Coach’s great work.”

After retiring from coaching, Elsasser served as the academic advising director for Mansfield’s athletic mentoring program that he and admissions counselor Jamie Butsko established in the late 1980s. He served on the Mansfield Alumni-Athletic Hall of Fame committee and was a familiar face in the stands at Mountaineer sporting events.

“Mansfield has a large alumni network that stretches far and wide,” Kerry and Amy said. “Our dad would want us to continue to help Mansfield grow.

“He was always striving to make things better and we hope that these scholarships will help the university continue to thrive.”

To support the Elsasser Memorial Scholarship at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation, visit mountaineerfdn.org and click "Make a Gift." Under designation, select "other" and enter “Elsasser Memorial Scholarship.”

Horton ‘68 commits $500,000 estate gift to Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation

MANSFIELD, Pa. - Dick Horton ‘68 has committed a $500,000 unrestricted estate gift to the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation to support Commonwealth University – Mansfield students.

Unrestricted gifts provide the university with the flexibility to allocate funds where they are needed most, ensuring the greatest benefit for Mansfield students—whether through scholarships, academic programs, campus improvements, or student support services.

“We are deeply grateful for Dick Horton’s extraordinary generosity and lifelong connection to Mansfield,” said Bashar W. Hanna, president of Commonwealth University. “His remarkable gift ensures that future generations of students will have the same transformative opportunities that shaped his own journey. This legacy of support will have a profound and lasting impact on Mansfield.”

A native of Elkland, Pa., Horton’s journey to Mansfield began with a simple yet transformative experience—attending an opera workshop on campus. Inspired by that moment, he chose Mansfield for his undergraduate education, majoring in social studies education. As a student, Horton was very involved in campus life, serving as editor of the Flashlight student newspaper, student government treasurer, and student manager of The Hut.

“My years at Mansfield were some of the happiest of my life,” Horton explained. “Mansfield gave me what I needed at the time. I want to help recreate that experience for future students.”

After graduating from Mansfield in 1968, Horton taught at Chichester High School in Delaware County, Pa. for 11 years while also serving as the band director. He went on to work for the Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit and nonpartisan civic education organization in Washington, D.C., from 1984 to 2001. Horton moved back to Pennsylvania to live with his late husband in Kutztown.

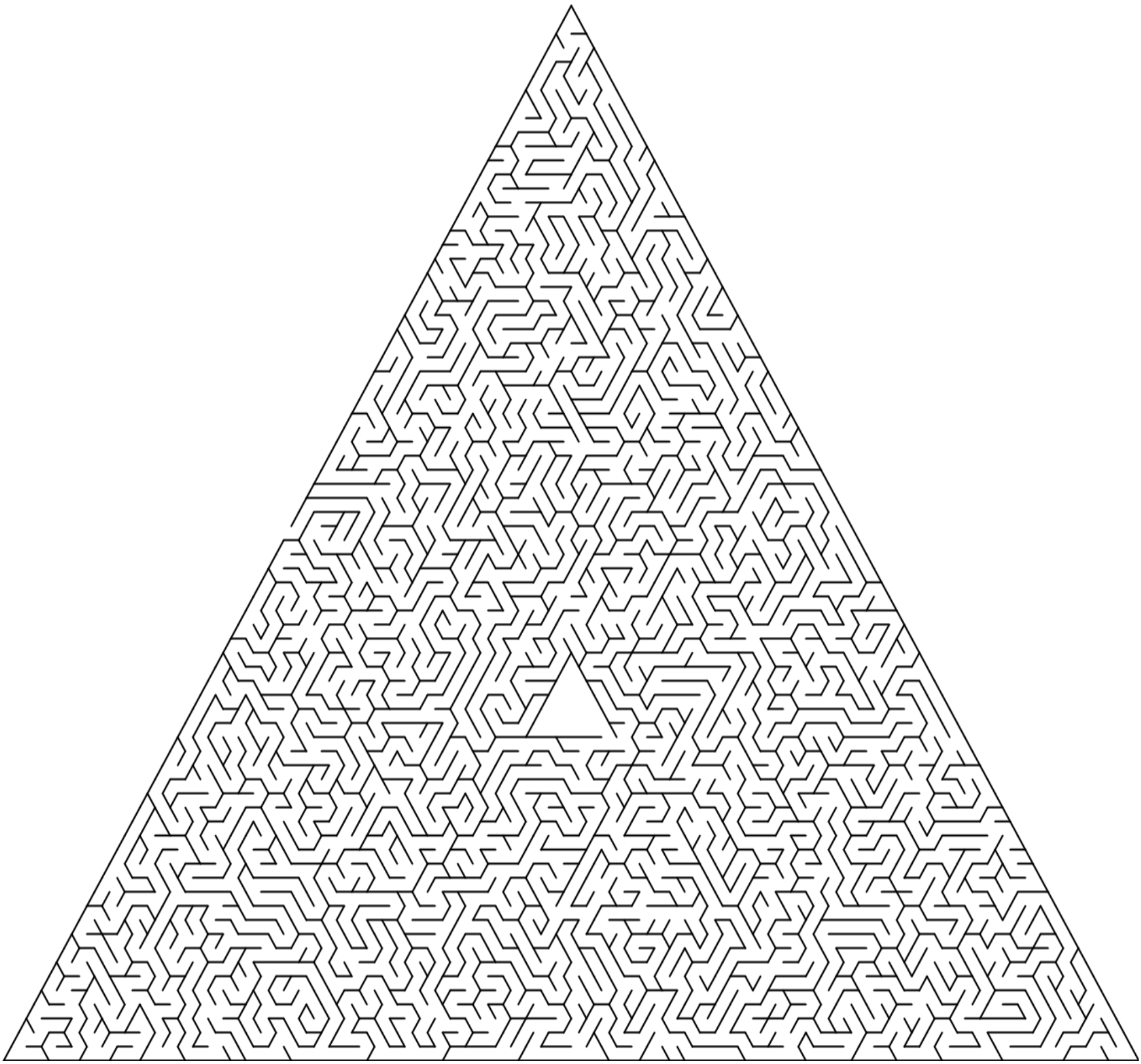
While Horton does not consider himself a musician, he was friends with many music students at Mansfield and regularly returns to campus for university concerts and performances. He’s even traveled to the famed Carnegie Hall to watch performances by Mansfield students.

To learn more about the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation or to make a gift, visit mountaineerfdn.org.

The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

CU-Mansfield ❖ Volume 125, Issue 2 ❖ Thursday, March 13 2025



The Trashlight

Lights Out Since 1926

Apr. 1, 2025
Volume 121
Issue 4

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Join the Anti-Jimmy Organization

Abigail the Valley
Resident Crazy Person

Dear students at Commonwealth University, I, a fellow student, want you to join my organization. You may be wondering what this organization, the AJO, is about, and if you are, read the headline next time >:((I apologize for the aggression, I'm just very passionate about my cause). You may have had James Guignard, otherwise known as Jimmy, as a professor for one of your classes (I definitely have). He is also the faculty advisor for The Flashlight, which I am also a part of. The AJO exists so that I can let other students know about the evil doings of Jimmy.

You may be wondering what these wrongdoings are, and I will mention one here. First, he's mean to me at Flashlight meetings, and it makes me very sad. You might be asking how he's mean to me, but I can't tell you, you'd have to come to a Flashlight meeting, which are held on Wednesdays at 4:30PM in Alumni Hall, room 314, to find out. This organization also exists so that students can speak their own stories and be heard by others in a similar situation to them, since ranting is always better with friends.

The only problem is that we don't have any members besides me (very sad), so I implore you to join. All officer positions are available, besides president, because I will be the president until I graduate. Meetings will occur every Monday at 3:00 AM, since seething in anger and evil plotting is most effective at this time. Also, because students are still probably awake doing last-minute homework at this time.

Signing up isn't required to join the organization, all you need to do to join the meeting is just show up, attendance isn't mandatory, just heavily encouraged. During meetings, we discuss Jimmy's wrongdoings and how we can spread the word about how evil he is. Members will benefit by being able to vent their emotions and become more open to the other members, creating new friends in the process. Snacks will be provided at meetings, along with refreshments, it's hard to be angry while you are hungry. I hope to see you at the meetings, please join, I'm not crazy I promise.

Photos Courtesy of MU's AJO President

Review of Perspective: My Refrigerator

Val Erie Mil Ler
Refrigerator Dweller

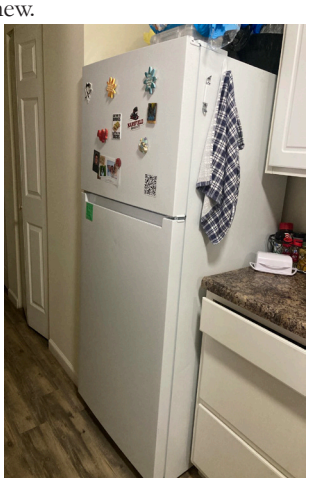
I am a resident at The Commons at Mansfield and I am here today to tell you about my wonderful and incredible refrigerator. It keeps my food nice and cold, and I am never doubt whether my food will be in peak eating condition.

Another wonderful thing about my fantastic Refrigerator is the fact that it also has a freezer on top of it. For lunch today I was able to have a hot pocket and chips and queso. I was able to have both because the freezer was able to keep my hot pocket frozen, so it didn't go bad. And it kept the queso cold in the fridge part of it so that I could microwave it and have hot queso for my chips.

One not so wonderful thing about my fridge is that it is not able to make the soda cans in my pantry cold without putting them in the refrigerator. I sometimes get lazy and don't want to put the sodas in the fridge. It would be much more convenient for me if the refrigerator could just read my mind and make the sodas cold for me without putting them into the fridge.

Another negative thing about my refrigerator is that it is too cold for me to relax in there. Sometimes I get back from a long day of classes and I just want to relax in the fridge like any other normal student, but some days it's just too cold for me. I like to relax in my fridge at home in just a sweatshirt and sweatpants, but here at my apartment, I have to wear a hat and mittens so that my fingies don't freeze (yes, I meant "fingies").

Now that I think about it, I guess my incredible refrigerator is not as incredible as I thought... Do I need to rethink my perspective on my fridge? Have I come this far believing that something I use every day is wonderful and special to only now find out that it is all a lie? Where do I go from here? Who am I? What am I supposed to believe? Is that bacon? When did that get there? I thought we threw out all the bacon last week. That is probably really bad and needs to be thrown out. Is that why it smells so bad in here? I knew the fridge smelled, but I thought it was because I have been sitting in here for three days and haven't showered. Wait is that another jar of pickles? Daniel, I told you last week to stop buying pickles! We have three jars already and don't need anymore!! Sigh, I guess it's time to emerge from my sanctuary of the refrigerator and start my life anew.



The "Incredible" Refrigerator in question

Wicked (2024) Movie Review

Abigail the Valley
Resident Crazy Person

Wicked (2024) has to be one of the worst movies that I have ever seen in my entire life. People may think that I'm crazy for this, but I'm objectively correct about this.

Starting with the cast, I have never heard of any of these people in my entire life. I have never heard of the so called "actress" Ariana Grande in my entire life and I'm glad that I didn't until now. The singing in this movie is terrible, none of the people who sang could even hold a note. Additionally, Fiyero is supposed to be played by an extremely attractive person, but was played by this guy named Jonathan Bailey, who is absolutely not attractive.

The movie is also super boring, and it feels like nothing happens during the entire movie, especially during the musical numbers. They definitely should have had the original actors playing their respective characters, because the new ones aren't good. The only exception to that feeling though, is Ethan Slater who had a perfect performance in playing Boq.

The plot didn't make sense, even though it's the same as the original Broadway version and fixes the poor pacing of the original musical. Another problem is that it is only one part of the story and clocks in at 2 hours and 40 minutes long. Even though they are making it longer to fix the pacing of the original. Movies are performed differently than a musical, so there's no reason that the first part of the movie should be ten minutes longer than the entire original musical.

Another big problem with the movie is that merchandise and marketing are everywhere. Even though the original Broadway version was successful, and the movie was anticipated, there's no reason for marketing to be everywhere. I know other people want to buy the merchandise and that's why it's everywhere, but it shouldn't have to be shoved in my face because of what everyone else likes. All of the merchandise is terrible anyway. I don't know why anyone would want to own any of it. I know that this doesn't actually have anything to do with the movie, but I still think that it's true. Overall, Wicked (2024) is a terrible movie with a terrible cast and anyone who enjoyed it has to be a crazy person.

Photo found in the archives of The Flashlight crazy people files

BREAKING: U.S. Government Abolishes Daylight Saving Time

Lilku The Rapper
Smarty Pamts McGee

April 1, 2025 | Washington, D.C. — In what may be the most unexpected legislative pivot in modern history, the United States government has officially abolished Daylight Saving Time and will replace it with a new system known as "Vibe-Based Hours." According to the newly passed Temporal Freedom and Flexibility Act of 2025, traditional clock-based timekeeping will be phased out over the coming months and replaced with a more intuitive, mood-driven approach that reflects "the natural rhythm of human energy and existential confusion."

The law, signed just after dawn (or what used to be dawn), was introduced by the newly formed Department of Temporal Innovation (DTI). At a morning press conference, DTI spokesperson Karen Flaxley explained the shift. "Time is a social construct," she said, sipping oat milk from a reusable mug. "If we all agree that 8 a.m. is just a suggestion, then why shouldn't we live according to when it feels like time to get things done?" President Carli Rae Jepsen, who signed the bill in fuzzy slippers and a hoodie that said "Chronically Late, But Trying," agreed. "The people are tired. The clocks are tired. We're all just winging it anyway," she said.

Under the new system, Americans will no longer set their clocks forward in the spring or backward in the fall. Instead, communities will operate under a flexible structure rooted in shared emotional and environmental cues. For example, the early morning period will now be referred to as "Sleepy O'Clock," a time widely understood to occur before people have had their first cup of coffee or been yelled at by a group chat. Mid-afternoon will be called "Snack Thirty," a time of sluggish productivity often accompanied by the desire for pretzels or something sweet. "Golden Hourish" will describe the late afternoon window when the sunlight hits just right and everyone suddenly feels photogenic. The period between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. will now be known as "Weird Limbo Time," when no one is entirely sure what they're supposed to be doing, and the hours between 11 p.m. and 3 a.m. will be labeled "Too Late But I'm Still Up," capturing that unique blend of regret, inspiration, and existential panic that often strikes after midnight.

Public reaction to the announcement has been mixed but passionate. Many younger Americans have embraced the idea, calling it "emotionally intelligent" and "a long-overdue rejection of the tyranny of time." Social media exploded with hashtags like #GoodbyeClocks, #VibeOClock, and the trending phrase "I'm not late, I'm on my own timeline."

However, not everyone is excited about the change. Businesses, especially those operating across multiple time zones, are expressing concern about how to schedule meetings, flights, and deadlines without objective hours. In a statement released on their website, Delta Airlines wrote, "We support innovation, but someone needs to explain to us when 4:45 p.m. is. We have a flight to land in Charlotte and no idea if the pilot's on 'Snack Thirty' or 'Golden Hourish.'"

Tech companies are already scrambling to adjust. Apple has announced a beta version of a new system called iOS VibeOS, which will use mood tracking, caffeine levels, and ambient music to estimate your current "vibe zone." Google Calendar is reportedly integrating flexible scheduling options such as "sometime this afternoon," "whenever we're all feeling it," and "not today." Early reports show smart devices becoming increasingly disoriented; one Ohio resident claims her microwave now displays only a shrug emoji and a blinking colon.

Even the scientific community has weighed in. Dr. Lena Martinez, a theoretical physicist at MIT, stated, "In some ways, this aligns with Einstein's theory of relativity. Time is relative… but I don't think he meant it like this."

Despite concerns, the federal government insists the change will reduce stress, improve sleep, and foster a more mindful relationship with productivity. DTI officials recommend that people ease into the new model by replacing their clocks with scented candles, vibes-based mood boards, or nothing at all. "If your body thinks it's still 2 a.m., it should be legally recognized as 2 a.m.," Flaxley emphasized. "That's what true freedom looks like."

President Jepsen concluded the briefing with a smile and a yawn. "We've spent centuries bowing to the clock," she said. "It's time to bow to the vibe."

The Flashlight

Shining light on Mansfield University since 1926

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Mansfield's Van Norman Field and Maxson Track Stadium Complex Set for Game-Changing $4 Million Renovation

gomounties.com

MANSFIELD, Pa. – Mansfield's Karl Van Norman Field and Maxson Track stadium complex, the heart of Mountaineer Athletics, will undergo a transformative $4 million renovation. The project will modernize the stadium, elevate the student experience, and enhance a vital campus and community gathering space.

The project includes new artificial turf at Van Norman Field, a resurfaced Maxson Track, and upgraded stadium seating. Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2026, with completion in time for the fall 2026 athletic season. Additional enhancements are possible via donor support through the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation.

"Karl Van Norman Field has long been a cornerstone of the Mansfield campus and community, bringing people together through athletics, celebrations, and shared experiences," said Bashar W. Hanna, president of Commonwealth University. "This renovation is a strategic investment in our students, university and community. Along with generous support from donors, we are ensuring that this beloved facility continues to inspire Mountie pride and excellence for generations to come."

The current seating dates to the stadium's original construction in 1964, when it became the home of Mountaineer football. An expanded eight-lane track was installed in 2012, followed by the artificial turf surface a year later.

Aligning turf replacement, track resurfacing, and seating upgrades within a single project window ensures a cost-efficient process and minimizes disruptions to campus and community events.

"This renovation is about providing Mountaineer student-athletes with a modern facility, while giving coaches a powerful tool in recruiting talent," said Dr. Gretchen Sechrist, Mansfield campus administrator and interim vice provost and dean of undergraduate education. "We are excited to see this project come to life and the lasting impact it will have on our teams and community."

"It is such an exciting time for Mansfield Athletics," said Peggy Carl, Mansfield director of athletics. "This multi-million-dollar project will be a benefit to every Mountaineer student-athlete and shows the university's commitment to the success of Mansfield athletics. The chance to showcase the Mansfield campus to our community partners will result in enhanced opportunities for recruitment, a level of student-athlete satisfaction that is unparalleled and provides us a path to an enhanced fan experience.

"We could not be more thrilled for this project and are grateful for the support of so many who will make it a reality," she added.

A Central Hub for Athletics and the Community

The stadium is home to Mountaineer sprint football, field hockey, and track and field, as well as an alternate venue for women's soccer. The facility also serves as a training and conditioning space for all Mansfield athletic programs and hosts the university's annual spring commencement ceremonies.

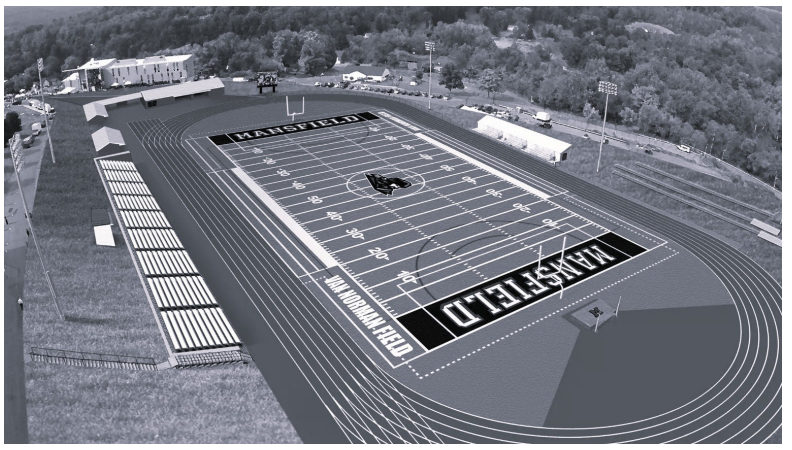

Photo Courtesy of gomounties.com

Beyond campus, the facility plays a key role in regional athletics and community events, hosting the Tioga County Special Olympics, concerts, high school football games, track and field invitationals, and more.

A Strategic Investment in the Future

This renovation underscores Mansfield's commitment to providing top-tier athletic facilities that not only support current student-athletes but also enhance recruitment efforts. A modernized facility strengthens Mansfield's appeal to prospective athletes, reinforcing the university's reputation for excellence in both academics and athletics.

As the stadium evolves, so does its impact - continuing to serve as a stage for unforgettable moments, athletic achievements and lifelong memories for students, alumni and the broader community.

Enhancing the Impact

Further enhancements to the stadium project are possible through the support of individual and corporate donors. With additional donor support, a new press box, state-of-the-art scoreboard, and upgraded team facilities can be included in the scope of the project.

Anyone interested in making these additional enhancements a reality should contact Kate Billmeyer, senior director of philanthropy at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation, at (570) 204-2052 or kbillmeyer@cu-mansfield.org for more information.

More information about the stadium renovation is available at GoMounties.com/Stadium.

MU Baseball Fall in Spring Break Doubleheader Against the California (PA) Vulcans

Taya-Reese Johnson

Secretary

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, in a Spring Break matchup, CU-Mansfield's men's baseball team lost in a doubleheader against the California (PA) University Vulcans, a cross-conference opponent. In game one, the Vulcans beat the Mountaineers 6-5.

During the top of the second, the Mountaineers got on the board first with an RBI groundout by freshman infielder Kahale Burns which allowed sophomore catcher Cole Serfass to score. The Mountaineers went up 2-0 in the fourth inning thanks to an RBI single by sophomore outfielder Ryan Sekulski which brought senior outfielder Ryan Scott back to home plate. The Vulcans got on the board in the bottom half of the inning with an unearned run.

Senior infielder Jacob Houtz knocked a two-run blast over the field wall while at-bat in the fifth inning, extending the Mountaineers' lead over the Vulcans. 4-1. In the top of the seventh, graduate infielder Mike Biuso scored on an error by the Vulcans. In the bottom of the seventh, the Vulcans managed to tie the game with three runs on two hits and then a sac fly. During the bottom of the eighth, the Vulcans sealed their 6-5 game one victory with a walk off RBI single.

In this first game, senior pitcher Austin Lewis pitched six innings in which he struck out four batters. Having a career day, in the bottom of the second, Lewis struck out the Vulcans' five-hitter and recorded the 200th strikeout of his Mountaineer. Lewis is now the ninth Mountaineer in program history to achieve this feat.

In the second game, graduate pitcher Shane Stossel started on the mound for the Mountaineers. The Vulcans dominated the game, winning 4-0. They first scored in the bottom of the second inning with an RBI fielder's choice. The Vulcans then added two more runs in the fourth. An RBI groundout increased the Vulcans' lead to 4-0 as they headed into the seventh and final inning.

After additional matchups against the Kutztown University Golden Bears and the CU-Lock Haven Bald Eagles, the Mountaineers are currently 8-11 overall (2-2 PSAC East). Their upcoming opponents include East Stroudsburg University, Millersville University, Lock Haven University, Shippensburg University, Pitt-Johnstown (non-conference), Bloomsburg University and West Chester University.

A remarkable journey through the Commonwealth University Early College Program

CU News

For many high school students, college feels like a distant milestone - but for Nathan "Nate" Wales, it has been a reality since ninth grade. A homeschool student from Athens, Wales took advantage of the Commonwealth University Early College Program to begin earning college credits early. Now, as a high school senior, he is on track to graduate with an astonishing 72 college credits - making him both a high school senior and a college junior at the same time.

Photo courtesy of CU News

Through the Early College Program, high school students can enroll in college courses at a reduced tuition rate, providing an affordable and accessible head start on their higher education. For Wales, this opportunity allowed him to explore his academic interests and commit to a major early on. He is now pursuing a degree in business administration with a marketing concentration.

"It has been a great opportunity for me," Wales said. "It's a lot of hard work, but the online courses are very convenient because I can work around the other activities in my schedule. I've looked at it as a way to invest in myself and my future."

Nathan Wales1

Beyond academics, Wales has a wide range of personal interests. He is an accomplished athlete in the Spartan DEKA event, qualifying to compete in the World Championships in 2023. He is also an avid comic book enthusiast and a creative Lego artist and collector. His studies in marketing have given him a fresh perspective on the world around him.

"Since taking courses in marketing, I am starting to notice things around me and what strategies are effective and which ones are not," he said. "I look forward to applying what I'm learning in the real world soon."

Wales comes from a proud Mansfield University legacy. His father, Dr. Andrew Wales (EdD), graduated in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in art education. As an educator, he recognizes the value of programs like Early College in shaping motivated students' futures.

"The Early College program is a fantastic opportunity for self-motivated students," Dr. Wales said. "Nate has had access to a huge resource of courses offered online through all the Commonwealth campuses."

Photo courtesy of CU News

Recently, Wales attended the Career Connections Expo at CU-Mansfield, an event designed to connect students with potential employers from government, non-profit and social and environmental services. Hosted by the Office of Alumni and Professional Engagement, this was the second of three Career Connections Expos at Mansfield, providing valuable networking opportunities and insights into future career paths.

For Wales, the expo was another step in preparing for life beyond college, allowing him to explore real-world applications of his marketing studies and engage with industry professionals.

This fall, Wales plans to continue his studies at Commonwealth University-Mansfield, taking courses on campus as he moves closer to completing his degree. His story is a testament to the power of early academic ambition, the flexibility of modern education and the opportunities available through the Early College Program.

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The Elsasser Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to student-athletes who are natives of New Jersey as a nod to Elsasser's coaching roots in Passaic. The inaugural recipient of the Tom Elsasser Memorial Scholarship is Ian Mapp, a junior sprint football student-athlete selected by his coaching staff. Mapp, a native of Burlington Township, New Jersey, is a nursing major, a nod to Ruth who spent her career in the nursing field.

"Tom's legacy is such an important one to so many at Mansfield," explained Peggy Carl, Mansfield athletics director. "This scholarship in his name will help student-athletes achieve new heights while helping to provide them with the boost they need to thrive. We are forever grateful to Kerry, Amy, and the entire Elsasser family for continuing Coach's great work."

After retiring from coaching, Elsasser served as the academic advising director for Mansfield's athletic mentoring program that he and admissions counselor Jamie Butsko established in the late 1980s. He served on the Mansfield Alumni-Athletic Hall of Fame committee and was a familiar face in the stands at Mountaineer sporting events.

"Mansfield has a large alumni network that stretches far and wide," Kerry and Amy said. "Our dad would want us to continue to help Mansfield grow.

"He was always striving to make things better and we hope that these scholarships will help the university continue to thrive."

To support the Elsasser Memorial Scholarship at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation, visit mountaineerfdn.org and click "Make a Gift." Under designation, select "other" and enter "Elsasser Memorial Scholarship."

Photo courtesy of CU News

Shupp and Maurer's Three RBI Game Cement Saturday Split at Shepherd

gomounties.com

SHEPHERDSTOWN, W. Va. - Three RBIs from Sarah Shupp and Emma Maurer each helped the Mansfield Mountaineers softball team finished their Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) weekend at Shepherd (11-11, 7-3 PSAC East), with the Rams earning the 2-1 game one victory, but the Mounties pulled out the game two 7-3 win.

Shupp went 3 for 4 in game two, with her first home run of the year in a three-run shot to earn the red and black game two and three runs.

Maurer had a two RBI double and another RBI at the plate in game two, while earning her first victory in the circle with seven strikeouts in her complete game.

GAME 1: Shepherd 2 - Mansfield 1

Shepherd posted the first two runs to remain in control for the rest of game one. Two RBI singles in the bottom of the third gave the Rams the 2-0 edge.

Natalie Blackstone represented the lone run for the Mountaineers (5-15, 3-9 PSAC East), scoring off a strikeout throwdown, resulting in heads up baserunning. Blackstone was the only Mountie with two hits, including a double.

Aubrey Reinert earns the RBI from the plate appearance and stamped the other hit.

Annabella Putnam finished with five strikeouts in her complete game appearance, shutting down the host after the third inning.

GAME 2: Mansfield 7 - Shepherd 3

Caydence Macik and Maurer rattled off two early runs for the red and black, scoring Blackston and Shupp to start with the 2-0 advantage.

Shepherd responded in the bottom half of the first to make it 2-1.

Maurer found her groove with a two run double down the left field line, bringing in both Macik and Shupp to storm out to a 4-1 edge after the third inning.

The Rams bounced back with two runs to cut the deficit to 4-3 before the final inning, looking to create a comeback.

Photo Courtesy of gomounties.com

Shupp's first smack of the season silenced the Rams, with her three-run shot scoring Rachel Sherman and Paige Reichard to give Mansfield the 7-3 victory.

UP NEXT:

Mansfield returns to Helen Lutes Field on Tuesday (Apr. 1) for a home doubleheader with Shippensburg. First pitch for game one is scheduled for 2 p.m., followed by game two with the Raiders expected to start at 4 p.m.

Mountaineer Women Finish Six in Top Ten

gomounties.com

EASTON, Pa. - The Mansfield Mountaineers Women's track and field team finish six in top the top ten at the Leopard Invite, hosted by Lafayette University on Saturday, Mar. 29.

Madison Ziska led the field events for the team sweeping the competition in first place with a long jump mark of 5.40 meters. Ziska now holds the second furthest distance in program history.

Riley Batdorf and Marissa Allen debuted in shot put placing 24th with 6.93 and 21st with 7.38 meters.

Minyhah Easterling and Blaze Wood joined for marks of 11.45 meters for sixth and 20th with 7.57 which both are personal best.

Wood tried her hand at hammer placing 15th with 24.71 which is the eighth furthest mark in program history.

Easterling attempted discus for the first time taking 15th and throwing 27.73, Wood placed 20th with 19.22 meters.

Alexis McNitt accompanied Wood in javelin where they finished eighth (24.95) and ninth (24.07).

Allen ran the 3000-meter steeplechase finalizing in fourth place with a time of 12:41.90.

Libby Moore raced around the track for the 5000-meter placing fourth with a time of 23:35.88.

Sandra Lemus took 15th with 13.51, a personal best, in the 100-meter dash followed by her teammate McNitt with 24th with 14.30.

Both also took place in the 200-meter where Lemus finished 21st (29.83) and right in front of her McNitt finished 20th (29.51).

UP NEXT:

The Mounties are back in action on Friday (Apr. 4) as they travel to compete in the Dave Labor Invite, hosted by Slippery Rock.

Photo Courtesy of gomounties.com

Raymond Helps Mounties Dominate at Leopard Invite

gomounties.com

EASTON, Pa. - The Mansfield Mountaineers Men's track and field team dominate in all areas at the Leopard Invite, hosted by Lafayette University on Saturday, Mar. 29.

Cahsid Raymond had the second longest long jump in program history, winning first with a mark of 6.93 meters and qualifying for the PSAC Championships.

Jerry Holmes Jr. finished in eighth with 6.40 and Josh Culver with a personal best of 5.49 meters in the long jump as well.

Raymond crushed the competition in the 100-meter dash taking first once again, meeting the PSAC standards and taking the spot at the second fastest time in program history with 10.48. Following Raymond were teammates Pius Adomako (20th – 11.30) giving him the 9th fastest time in program history, Holmes (30th – 11.61) and Ibrahim Sheriff (36th – 12.08).

Jonathan McDannell ran the 110-meter hurdles where he finished eighth a time of 16.08, making him the fifth fastest hurdler in program history.

Raymond qualified in the 200 meter as well with a time of 21.78 taking fourth place, which is now the third fastest time in the program books. Adomako and Sheriff competed as well in the 200-meter placing 21st with 22.81, a personal best, and 49th with a time of 25.11.

Jackson Doughty raced in the 400-meter placing eighth with a time of 52.07, following was Khyre Inman in 26thplace with 55.96.

Seth Neal finished 10th in the 800-meters with a time of 2:03.47 while Nathaniel Welch placed 12th with 2:06.35.

Greysen Kupsky for the first time in his collegiate career participated in the 3000-meter steeple chase where he finished sixth with 12:08.93.

Rylan Ebner and Derek Simpson both competed in the 5000-meter attaining fifth and sixth with 17:56.83 and 18:25.65.

A team of Ajani Gibson, Adomako, Holmes and Raymond placing fourth with a time of 43.85 in the 4 x 100-meter relay.

Rounding out the day for the Mountaineers was the 4 x 400-meter relay, where the team consisting of McDannell, Neal, Welch and Sheriff finished in sixth with 3:37.85.

Marcus Quaker took eighth in javelin with 48.63 meters. Kupsky debuted as a thrower taking 17th with a mark of 30.14 meters.

Quaker also collected a personal record in discus where he finished 15th with 35.32 meters. Michael Beals competed alongside Quaker where he threw 16.34 meters placing 20th.

Beals added another throwing event to his repertoire his first ever mark in the hammer throw placing 12th with 12.64 meters.

Quaker finished his day in shot put where he placed 20th with a mark of 10.84.

Gibson and Culver both rounded out the day at triple jump placing 10th with 12.38 and 16th with a mark of 10.07 meters. Both men are added to the program history books as the fourth and fifth furthest jumps.

UP NEXT:

The Mounties are back in action on Saturday (April 5) as they travel to compete in the SRU Dave Labor Invite.

Photo Courtesy of gomounties.com

The Flashlight

Spring 2025
Mansfield University
of Pennsylvania
Student Newspaper

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The Flashlight supports our professors and programs!

Happy
April
Fools
Day!!

The Trashlight

Lights Out Since 1926

Mansfield University ❖ Volume 125, Issue 3 ❖ Tuesday, April. 1, 2025

Gordon Ramsay to Bring Michelin-Star Dining to CU-Mansfield's Manser Hall

Lilku The Rapper

Smarty Pamts McGee

In an announcement that has taken the campus — and frankly, the culinary world — by storm, world-renowned chef and television personality Gordon Ramsay is officially coming to Commonwealth University – Mansfield to completely transform Manser Dining Hall into a five-star dining experience.

According to a statement from CU-Mansfield's Office of Campus Life, Ramsay will be arriving later this month as part of a new initiative called "From Cafeteria to Culinary: Reimagining Campus Cuisine." The goal? To bring Michelin-quality meals to the university dining hall — a feat some are calling "ambitious," "visionary," and "mildly terrifying."

Ramsay, best known for his fiery demeanor and shows like Hell's Kitchen and Kitchen Nightmares, reportedly accepted the offer after receiving a care package from a CU student. Inside the box was a slice of pizza from Manser, a mashed potato sample, and a handwritten note that read, "Please save us. We haven't seen seasoning in years." "I've eaten food in war zones, jungle camps, and gas station parking lots," Ramsay said in a press release. "But the moment I bit into that rubbish, I knew this was a culinary emergency." Ramsay is set to spend two weeks on campus conducting kitchen inspections, retraining the dining staff, and overhauling the entire menu. New dishes being considered include pan-seared salmon with lemon beurre blanc, beef Wellington with a red wine jus, and a build-your-own poke bowl bar — complete with instructions for how not to butcher sushi rice.

Students are reacting with a mix of awe and disbelief. "I thought this was a prank," said junior communications major Rachel Kim. "But then I saw a guy in a chef's coat yelling at a tray of mashed potatoes in the dish return area, and I just knew." Sophomore Brett Donnelly described the moment Ramsay entered Manser like something out of a movie. "He came in, looked at the burger station, and just whispered, 'What have they done?' Then he threw a grilled cheese at the wall."

As part of his visit, Ramsay will also hold a series of student workshops, including:

- "How to Boil Water Without Ruining It"
- "Yes, Salt Matters: A Crash Course in Seasoning"
- "Deconstructing Ramen (Without a Microwave)"

There are also rumors that Ramsay will be selecting one student each day for a "Lunch Makeover," in which he personally prepares a custom meal based on the student's dietary preferences, stress level, and GPA. University officials are urging students not to be intimidated. "Chef Ramsay is passionate about food and education," said Director of Dining Services Carla Benson. "Although, we have asked him to limit the swearing in front of first year students." Not everyone is convinced, though. Local food critic Dale Yarrow questioned whether Mansfield is ready for Michelin-level food. "We're talking about a campus where students dip chicken nuggets in coffee because they ran out of sauce," he said. "This is going to be a cultural shock."

The dining hall's temporary rebranding as "Manser à la Mode" will feature ambient music, table service on Fridays, and a dress code described as "business casual, or at least no pajama pants." Ramsay's final project will be a Manser-exclusive cookbook titled "What Not to Do, Ever Again: A Memoir of My Time in a College Cafeteria."

The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

May 8, 2025
Volume 125
Issue 4

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CU-Mansfield Students Advocate on Capitol Hill

Gabrielle Ives
Staff Writer

On March 26 and 27, CU-Mansfield students attended the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., where they met with congressional representatives to petition for the release of wrongfully detained scholars. The CU-Mansfield students, Annabelle Woodburn and Dallas Schultz, attended the two-day event on behalf of Dr. Jonathan Rothermel's Human Rights seminar.

Dr. Rothermel's course incorporates hands-on advocacy work to supplement lectures on human rights enforcement and abuses through partnering with Scholars at Risk. The international non-governmental organization provides protection and gives a voice to hundreds of detained scholars across the globe. CU-Mansfield has partnered with Scholars at Risk since 2017 and has assisted in global efforts to free Princeton PhD candidate Xiyue Wang and Iranian wildlife conservation researcher Niloufar Bayani.

This semester, students are working to free Iranian-Swedish disaster medicine scholar Dr. Ahmadreza Djalali and Marfa Rabkova, a Belarusian law student studying at the European Humanities University. Both Dr. Djalali and Marfa Rabkova are being unlawfully detained, likely as political bargaining chips rather than for legitimate crimes.

Dr. Djalali, for example, is being held in the Iranian Evin prison, where he has awaited a death sentence since 2016 for crimes as vague as "corruption on earth." While in prison, Dr. Djalali has lost over 26 lbs and has been denied medical care. In the case of Marfa Rabkova, after protesting the contentious re-election of Alexander Lukashenko, or "Europe's last dictator," in 2020, she was sentenced to 15 years in prison for "inciting racial, national, religious, or other social hostility." In prison, Rabkova has faced similar medical neglect, including refusal of surgery for extreme pelvic pain and tooth decay.

Left to right: Annabelle Woodburn, Representative Glenn Thompson, and Dallas Schultz, showcasing their bracelets on Capitol Hill during the Scholars at Risk Advocacy Days

Daniel Teeter and Brianna Winter at the CU-Bloomsburg Model UN Conference

After learning about the human rights abuses being inflicted upon scholars much like our own professors, Annabelle Woodburn and Dallas Schultz attended the Student Advocacy Days in Washington to get practical experience in the world of advocacy and lobbying. The CU-Mansfield students were joined by over 30 other students from schools across North America, including those from Roger Williams University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Iowa, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While in D.C., the CU-Mansfield students had the opportunity to meet with and lobby Representative Glenn Thompson, the Republican representative for Pennsylvania's 15th congressional district. On his conversation with Representative Thompson, sophomore Political Science and History major Dallas Schultz said, "He was the only representative we met with for an extended period of time, and he really was a guy that cares. **Continue on pg. 2**

CU-Mansfield Students Advocate on Capitol Hill Cont.

Not just about Scholars at Risk, but he cares about everything. Mansfield University, funding, and I think he was excited to see Mansfield students have the opportunity to meet with him in Washington. He's somebody that, especially with Iran, realizes the global issues, and I think our meeting with him struck him in a way."

After their return to campus, the students continued to advocate for the release of Dr. Djalali and Marfa Rabkova. Earlier in the semester, the class held raffles in Lower Manser where they educated students and fundraised for silicone bracelets championing the release of the scholars. The class later distributed the bracelets to students and faculty as a tangible way to spread awareness of the gross injustices. Moreover, students have tabled at community events in Wellsboro and Towanda, and students Daniel Teeter and Brianna Winter spoke about the cause at the CU-Bloomsburg Model UN Conference.

In a final push to spread awareness about the injustices scholars across the globe face, the class organized and executed a Week of Action from April 21st to April 25th. The week featured events such as rock painting, poster coloring, bingo at The Hut, and a showing of The Breadwinner, an animated 2017 film depicting the human rights abuses committed by the Taliban in Afghanistan, in the Strait Planetarium. Ultimately, the class has succeeded at spreading awareness regarding the issue of academic freedom across campus, though only time will tell if they are successful in assisting in the release of Djalali and Rabkova.

SAR NETWORK

Photo from the Scholars at Risk facebook page

Snow White: Better than Expected?

Abigail LeValley
Staff Writer

When I watched *Snow White* (2025), I was pleasantly surprised. I personally was fully expecting another terrible remake of a movie that I don't even like the original of. I was not planning on actually watching the movie because of my personal distain for Disney's live action remakes, but when my sister asked me to go see it with her, I accepted the invitation. I was expecting the same story as the original with maybe an extra song tacked on so that they could say that it wasn't exactly the same, but I was shocked by what I witnessed.

The story in the new *Snow White* was different from the original movie. She was born a princess in this version and the character that she falls in love with isn't a prince. It's hard to explain why the plot of this movie is different without spoilers, so I will add a small spoiler warning here. The Evil Queen in this movie ends up being Snow White's stepmother who had killed Snow White's father so that she could take the crown. She tries to kill Snow White for the same reason. Snow White ends up running away for the same reason as well, but Snow White is shown as more independent than in the first movie. The movie also benefits from her love interest not being a prince. Her love interest, named Jonathan, is a thief who steals from the castle "in the name of the king" with his small gang of robbers. There are a few original songs thrown into the movie that are great additions to the soundtrack. My personal favorite song is "Princess Problems," since it reminded me of a lot of musicals that I enjoy.

This movie faced controversy before it came out. People first didn't like the casting and some even stated that Rachel Zegler, the actress who plays the title character, wasn't "white enough" for the role, which is an absolutely crazy statement to make about a person and doesn't really need to be addressed further. People also had problems with Disney using CGI to animate the dwarves instead of casting little people as the dwarves. A problem with this argument though is that people were complaining no matter what. Before the trailer for the movie came out, people were complaining that the dwarves were going to be played by little people and it would reinforce the stereotype that that's the only characters that they can play in movies. Overall, most of the backlash that surrounded the movie didn't really hold up when I watched it, because it was a pretty good movie and didn't deserve the bad box office scores.

Photo Courtesy of Amazon.com

UPCOMING MUSIC EVENTS

THURSDAY MAY 1
Orchestra Concert
7:30 pm Steadman Theater

FRIDAY MAY 2
Jazz Band Concert
7:30pm Steadman Theater

SUNDAY MAY 4
Wind Ensemble Concert
2:30 Steadman Theater

Mountaineer Track and Field Compete at Maroon and Gold Invite

Taya-Reese Johnson
Secretary

On Friday, April 25, the Mountaineer men's and women's track and field teams competed at CU-Bloomsburg's Maroon and Gold Invite. In the 200-meter, senior Cahsid Raymond came in first and broke the school record with a time of 21.47. Freshman Pius Adomako finished sixth in the same event with a time of 23.17. Raymond also came in first in the 100-meter with a time of 10.58 while sophomore Jerry Holmes Jr. came in sixth with a time of 11.64.

Freshman Jonathan McDannell had personal bests in the 110-meter hurdles and the 400-meter hurdles, finishing fourth with a time of 15.81 and third with a time of 1:00.17 respectively. In the 800-meter, senior Seth Neal and sophomore Nathaniel Welch respectively came in second with a time of 1:57.25 and fifth with a time of 2:02. Finishing in tenth place, junior Derek Simpson ran a time of 17:04.28 in the 5000-meter.

In the 4x100 relay, the Mountaineer team featuring Raymond, Adomako, McDannell, and freshman Marcus Quaker finished second in the event with a time of 42.87. Two Mountaineer teams competed in the 4x400. The team consisting of Quaker, Adomako, Neal, and junior Ibrahim Sheriff finished first with a time of 3:25.18; the other team with Raymond, Holmes Jr., sophomore Ajani Gibson, and sophomore Joshua Culver came in seventh with a time of 3:42.58.

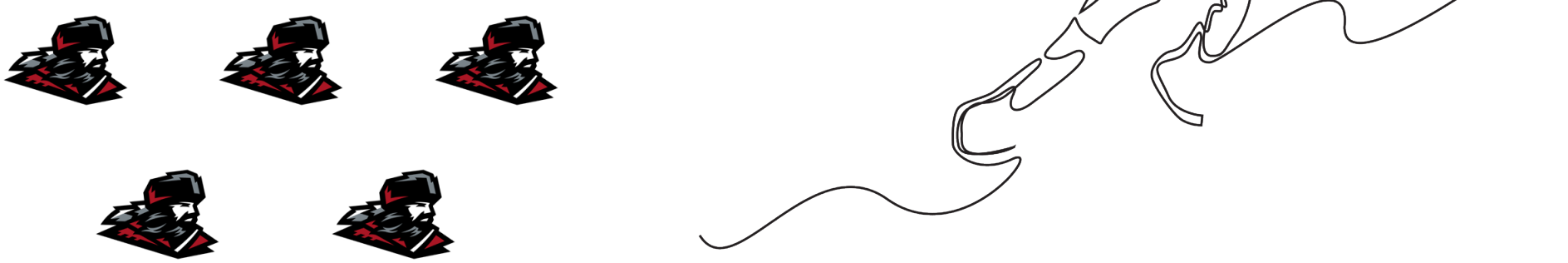
Quaker and senior Michael Beals competed in the discus, coming in sixth (33.58 meters) and eight (18.07 meters) respectively. Gibson came in sixth (11.97 meters) in the triple jump while Holmes Jr. finished in fourth in the high jump (1.67 meters).

On the women's side, sophomore Minyhah Easterling and senior Blaze Wood finished fifth (30.93 meters) and sixth (23.07 meters) respectively in the discus, both finishes being personal bests. Wood and freshman Alexis McNitt competed in the javelin. Wood finished in sixth after throwing a distance of 21.30 meters. McNitt threw a personal best with a distance of 28.35 meters and came in second in the event.

McNitt, Sandra Lemus, and Makayla Robicheaux competed in the 100-meter. The freshmen trio took the eighth (14.36), seventh (14.16), and sixth (13.97) places respectively. Robicheaux finished sixth in the 200-meter with a time of 28.27 while McNitt finished in tenth with a time of 29.39. Junior Madison Ziska took first place in the 400-meter with a time of 1:00.59.

Sophomore Marissa Allen and senior Carrie Claypool finished first (2:26.62) and second (2:30.14) in the 800-meter. Sophomore Anissa Lytle finished in fifth (3:46.19) in the same event. Allen finished fourth in the high jump with a mark of 1.36 meters. Ziska finished sixth in the long jump with a distance of 5.02 meters. In the 4x100 relay, the Mountaineer team consisting of McNitt, Lemus, Robicheaux, and Zisk finished third with a time of 52.27.

The Mountaineer men's and women's track and field teams will be competing next at the Lock Haven Qualifier, hosted by CU-Lock Haven, on Saturday, May 3.



Zoë Lewis' "Small is Tremendous:" Wise, Whimsical, and Just Plain Fun

Lilac Burke
Staff Writer

As a kid, I'd always be delighted when a certain skiffle song about sheep piped in through the car speakers. Approximately thirteen years later, it still gives me the goofiest grin. This blessing to my ears was recorded by a criminally underrated, multitalented musician whose discography I've had a ton of fun digging in: Zoë Lewis. And she's responsible for making one of my new favorite albums, 2004's "Small is Tremendous."

Before I go into depth about the album, I'll talk a bit about the artist. Zoë plays a ton of instruments, including accordion, and dabbles in a plethora of genres. Originally from the United Kingdom, she's visited over 70 countries on her global travels. Many of her travels have inspired her multicultural influences, as well as the lyrical subject matter of a few of her songs. In addition to that, she's written two musicals and toured with the Indigo Girls, Pat Benatar, and Judy Collins, who she shares a record label with! "Sheep" is not on the album I'm reviewing–it's on another album of hers with the same name, which is also quite good.

"Small is Tremendous" opens with the bang that is its title track. Blending zydeco squeezebox with Latin percussion, Zoë reminds us that "the littlest things make the biggest sense," which they very much do, whether they're leaf insects or carrying less when moving overseas. "I'm illegally in, but I'm human, too!" she cries out, remembering the risky process of immigrating to the US.

The second track, "Banana Moon," is a cello-driven love song with a bossa nova atmosphere. "It's like all the favorite things Julie Andrews sings," croons Zoë. We're then treated to a recorder solo that's more sensual than anything that's come out of Kenny G's sax. "Breakfast in Bangkok" is a reflection on her trip to Thailand, reminiscent of tango and Manouche jazz, a subgenre with French and Romani roots that was popularized by Django Reinhardt. The lyrics demonstrate an open mind- "Even though it's very old, to me it's very new/It's very good to see things from another point of view-" but the verse about the people may sadly come across as offensive to some, since they're described with words like "exotic."

"Solitude" is a sung adaptation of a poem by Winnie the Pooh author A.A. Milne, delivered gracefully with chromatic piano and recorder runs. Milne would be beyond proud of Zoë's adaptation, with her childlike wonder sitting beside her mature world-weariness. "Walter Thompson" unfortunately drops a slur once, but it's a fascinating story about a fascinating old man Zoë met on a cruise ship. "He sang a song a little like a caged bird would," she remarks on his loneliness, among a musical landscape reminiscent of 1960s sunshine pop.

"Elizabeth" is a sweet chamber folk tune, where the titular character (presumably a lover, friend, or idol, since she's referred to as "my Elizabeth" throughout) is humorously contrasted with other people and places with her name. "You're not like Elizabeth Taylor/With as many plastic surgeons as she's had wedding days." "Gringo!" is another tale from a worldwide vacation, describing the sights and sounds of a South American town. The word "gringo" is chiefly used by Latino populations to refer to white foreigners, so that is most likely referring to Zoë in this case. With a fast salsa vibe, a trumpet duet, and another spectacular recorder solo, she tells us about a crowded bus in the utmost detail. "Face to face, nose to nose, cheek to cheek/Capacity says '40' but I counted 97!"

"Tadpole Puddle" is a folky ditty reminding us that small is tremendous yet again, but I'm not complaining at all. It's got some romantic lyrics as well: "I like you much more than there are tulips down in old Amsterdam." "Eyelashes" is a Cole Porter-esque ode to an overlooked body part. She gives me a good giggle with lyrics like "You and your eyelashes know just what panache is" and "Those ocular fringes give me twinges." And, what do you know, more salsa and recorder virtuosity at the end, punctuated by Zoë and friends vocalizing "eye, eye, eye!"

"Snow White" is the funniest track on the album, but it's also the dirtiest. Taken from a live performance, Zoë tells the tale of how someone she met at a party survived an embarrassing incident while working at Disney World. The audience is tickled pink as, over her guitar, she describes "the day that Snow White said the F word." And, finally, the closing track, "Summer's Near" is a sentimental jazzy ballad about the warmest season of the year. She advises us to "open the windows and let all the old houses breathe," while allowing us to cool down after her wild and wacky journey.

Hands Off!: Anti-Trump Protest in Mansfield

Veda Spencer
Flashlight Contributor

Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has introduced a $51.5 billion budget proposal for the 2025-26 fiscal year, marking a $3.5 billion increase from the previous budget. The plan prioritizes education, public transit, healthcare, and economic development while relying on new revenue sources such as the legalization of adult-use cannabis and taxation on skill games. However, the budget's long-term sustainability has become a point of contention among lawmakers, with some warning of potential financial instability.

For students at Commonwealth University-Mansfield, a part of PASSHE, the proposed funding for higher education is particularly relevant. Shapiro's budget includes increased financial support for Pennsylvania's public universities. PASSHE looks to receive a proposed $661.1 million, a 6.5% increase over last year and could enable the state system keep tuition flat for the eighth consecutive year. The emphasis on higher education funding is meant to boost workforce development in fields like technology, healthcare, and manufacturing, which could benefit students preparing to enter these industries. However, it remains unclear how much of this funding will trickle down to regional universities like Mansfield.

Another major component of the budget is a $526 million increase in public K-12 education funding, aimed at addressing disparities in underfunded districts. This move follows a court ruling declaring Pennsylvania's school funding system unconstitutional, pushing the state toward reforms that would provide fairer resource distribution. While this funding increase is largely focused on primary and secondary schools, some Mansfield students pursuing teaching careers view this as a step toward a more equitable education system, potentially improving job prospects in public schools across the state.

Photo Courtesy of Veda Spencer

Photo Courtesy of Veda Spencer

For students who rely on public transportation, the budget's proposed $300 million boost to transit funding could be a welcome relief. Agencies like SEPTA have struggled financially since the pandemic, and this funding aims to prevent service cuts and fare hikes. Though Mansfield students may not depend on SEPTA, those who commute or plan to live in urban areas post-graduation recognize the importance of a well-funded transit system for accessibility and job opportunities.

The economic aspect of the budget has also drawn attention on campus. Shapiro's plan to reduce Pennsylvania's corporate net income tax from 8.99% to 4.99% by 2026 is intended to make the state more business-friendly. Additionally, the legalization of adult-use cannabis is expected to generate over $1.3 billion in revenue over five years, while the taxation of skill games, currently an unregulated gambling market, is another potential income stream. Some students support these measures, seeing them as innovative ways to boost state revenue without increasing income or sales taxes. However, critics argue that relying on these untested revenue sources could create financial uncertainty, possibly leading to budget shortfalls down the line.

Despite Shapiro's optimistic projections, concerns remain about long-term fiscal stability. With Pennsylvania's $4.5 billion surplus playing a key role in funding this plan, critics—especially Republican lawmakers—argue that the state could be heading toward a $27 billion deficit within five years if spending isn't more carefully managed. Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward has voiced concerns about relying on revenue that has yet to materialize, warning that future tax hikes might be necessary if the funding plan falls short.

As the budget proposal moves to the legislature, students at Commonwealth University-Mansfield are keeping a close watch. While many support the increased investment in education, infrastructure, and workforce development, there's also uncertainty about how much this funding will actually benefit their campus and whether the state can afford such an ambitious plan in the long run. With negotiations ahead, the final version of the budget could look quite different—but for now, students remain hopeful yet cautious about what it could mean for their future.

Photo Courtesy of Veda Spencer

Photo Courtesy of Veda Spencer

Student biologists leave winning mark at annual PASSHE conference

Jaime North
CU News

A group of biology majors from Commonwealth University-Mansfield with an emphasis in cell and molecular genomics presented research at the recent Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists (CPUB) 56th Annual Meeting, including two taking home first place awards.

Four additional Mansfield biology majors earned second place in their respective research categories. CPUB was held this year on Commonwealth University-Bloomsburg's campus.

Kristen Fulford, a senior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, received the Outstanding Student Award for Mansfield — an honor given annually to a student at each PASSHE school. She also won first place with her oral platform presentation in Undergraduate and Graduate Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Differences in Cell Proliferation and Apoptosis in Tumors Responding to LipoCurc
Andrews, D.T.*, G.E. Long, and K.B. Long
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COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY OF PA MANSFIELD Department of Biology
Abstract
Experimental Model
Preliminary Results
Discussion
References

Devin Andrews Presents his research
Photo Courtesy of CU News

Kristen Fulford, a senior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, received the Outstanding Student Award for Mansfield — an honor given annually to a student at each PASSHE school.

Fulford, who is set to graduate Magna Cum Laude in May, has been a very active student at Mansfield including being a four-year member of the Mounties women's basketball team and a tutor for various biology and physics courses. She's participated in STEM outreach events including "Bio on Wheels" for elementary school students and Wellsboro's "Hometown Science Festival" for local community members, as well as serving as co-president of Mansfield Future Healthcare Professionals club — with which she helped carry out Mansfield's Crucial Catch cancer awareness events in partnership with the American Cancer Society and the NFL.

Emma Wonsick, a junior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, was Mansfield's other first-place finisher, winning for her completed work poster in Undergraduate Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Photo Courtesy of CU News

Additional Award-Winning Mounties

Devin Andrews, a sophomore biology-cell and molecular genomics major, presented a work in progress poster and was awarded 2nd place in Undergraduate Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Sadie Beers, a senior, biology-cell and molecular genomics major, gave an oral platform presentation and was awarded 2nd place Undergraduate Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology.

Delaney Clark '24, continuing education in biology and fisheries, presented a completed work poster and was awarded 2nd place in Undergraduate Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology.

Kayla Howell, a senior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, presented a completed work poster and was awarded 2nd place in Undergraduate Cellular and Molecular Biology.

Jay Diya, a senior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, and Kylie Bornman, a junior biology-cell and molecular genomics major, also attended CPUB representing Mansfield. Diya gave an oral platform presentation, while Bornman presented a work in progress poster.

CPUB was founded in 1973 as an organization to provide support for the teaching and research activities of faculty in the biological sciences from the fourteen state-owned universities in the State System of Higher Education. Its activities have included scientific meetings, symposia, and institutes for the enhancement of the professional development of its members and associates. It also provides a forum for graduate and undergraduate students for the presentation of their research.

"A Scientist is not a person who gives the right anwers, he's one who asks the right questions."

~ Claude Levi-Strauss

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Mansfield's All In Day of Giving raises over $80,000 from more than 450 donors

CU News

The Commonwealth University-Mansfield community once again went All In - and the results were inspiring. In its third year, the Mounties' annual All In Day of Giving saw a surge in participation, with more than 450 donors contributing just over $80,000 to support student success, scholarships and Mountaineer programs. This marks another consecutive year of growth for the event, both in total donors and dollars raised.

More than half of this year's gifts were directed to Mountaineer Athletics, highlighting the pride and passion alumni and supporters have for the university's student-athletes and teams.

"This event is a reflection of what makes the Mansfield community so special," said Bashar W. Hanna, Commonwealth University president. "When we come together with a shared purpose - whether to support athletics, academics or student life - our collective impact is powerful. I'm incredibly proud of the support shown by the Mansfield family."

The 24-hour fundraising event energized alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of Mansfield to show their Mountie pride. Gifts poured in from across the region and beyond, supporting programs in every corner of campus life.

"Each year, I'm blown away by the generosity of our Mansfield community," said Kate Billmeyer, director of philanthropy at the Mansfield University Mountaineer Foundation. "To see our donor count and fundraising total grow year after year speaks volumes about how deeply people care about our students and programs. Whether they gave to athletics, the arts, scholarships or academics - our donors are directly impacting lives, and we couldn't be more grateful."

All funds raised through the Day of Giving go directly toward enhancing the student experience at Mansfield - whether through scholarships, classroom opportunities, athletics or campus initiatives.

As the tradition of the All In Day of Giving continues to build, so too does the legacy of generosity and impact that defines the Mansfield spirit.

For more information about supporting Mansfield students, visit mountaineerfdn.org

CU-Mansfield Fisheries Students Present Research at Regional Meeting

CU News

During this spring semester, two Commonwealth University-Mansfield fisheries students traveled to Wheeling, West Virginia, to present their student research projects at the Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia American Fisheries Society Joint Meeting.

Undergraduate Cole Pennington, of Mount Gretna, in conjunction with co-authors Dr. Greg Moyer, graduate student Graham Zechman, of Wellsboro, and undergraduate Hunter Ruhl, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, won best PA poster presentation for his research titled "Total Phosphorus Dynamics in Tributaries of the Tioga Watershed."

"The meeting was such a good place to talk and network with other fisheries professionals," Pennington said.

Graham Zechman giving his oral presentation of his research.

Graham Zechman giving his oral presentation of his research.

Second-year graduate student Zechman, gave an oral presentation of his research titled "Total Phosphorus Dynamics in Tributaries of the Tioga Watershed." His work was a collaboration with Luanne Steffy of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, along with Commonwealth University professors Dr. Greg Carson, of the Physical and Environmental Sciences, and Engineering Department), Dr Steve Rier (Biological and Health Sciences Department and Moyer of the Biological and Health Sciences Department.

"It was well worth the trip to get an opportunity to present my graduate research at a meeting of fisheries professionals," Zechman said.

Funding for the trip was provided by a grant awarded to Moyer from the Susquehanna Basin River Commission.

"It's nice to see students that are passionate about fisheries research succeed at the venues - to start with a hypothesis and end up presenting their original research is one of the greatest rewards a professor could have and is something we biology faculty at Mansfield really take pride in," Moyer said.

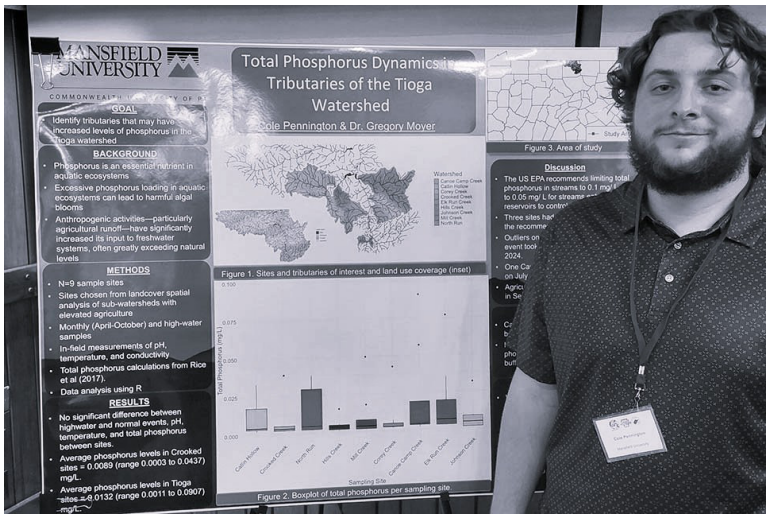
MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY
Total Phosphorus Dynamics in Tributaries of the Tioga Watershed
Cole Pennington & Dr. Gregory Moyer
GOAL
BACKGROUND
METHODS
RESULTS
Discussion
Figure 1. Sites and tributaries of interest and land use coverage (inset)
Figure 2. Boxplot of total phosphorus per sampling site
Figure 3. Area of study

Photo Courtesy of CU News

The Flashlight

Shining light on CU-Mansfield since 1926

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